Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 50 | FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Is the CNMI government doing enough to cut down on unnecessary spending?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

150 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Plane Crash

A Turkish Airlines jetliner plowed into a muddy field near Amsterdam's main airport, killing nine.

WORLD...Page 26

Britney Trial

Britney Spears' hairdresser testified that the pop superstar told her she was scared of her former manager and friend.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 28

1st NMI bill in Congress gets strong support. **PAGE 2**

Citizenship, Immigration office will open in March. **PAGE 3**

AS START OF FEDERALIZATION NEARS

Is the CNMI ready for June 1?

By KRISTI EATON, HAIDEE V. EUGENIO, FERDIE DELA TORRE
REPORTERS

With just 93 days remaining before the June 1 start of federalization, uncertainty is the word the Fitial administration and some lawmakers are using to define the sentiment within the Commonwealth.

See IS THE on Page 4

'Abolishing Article XII is not end of Chamorro, Carolinian cultures'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group stimulating anew the discussions on the importance of abolishing Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution says doing away with the land alienation provision is not the end of the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures, which those opposed to the idea want the public to believe.

Article 12 stipulates that only persons of Northern Marianas descent may buy or own land in the CNMI.

The Citizens for Change to Article 12, a non-profit group, said that persons originally designated as NMDs were not

See ABOLISHING on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of the Citizens for Change to Article XII pose for the media on Wednesday night right. Seated, from left, Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan and Alex Sablan. Standing, from left, chairman Efrain F. Camacho, Atty. Vincent J. Seman, and David Sablan.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Visiting students of Seisa Gakuen/Aoba School in Yokohama, Japan and San Antonio Elementary School students show the t-shirts with banana printing they made together yesterday on the campus as part of the 11th Annual Cultural Exchange between the schools. ***See story on Page 8.***

Diego backs out of gubernatorial race

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Diego Benavente formally backed out from the November gubernatorial race, saying the opportunity he was looking for "is not present at this time."

Benavente, who was the first to announce his bid under the Republican ticket, will withdraw his application with party officials this week.

"I decided, after speaking with my family and friends, that I will be stepping down and withdraw my name. I will be sending the party president and officials a letter withdrawing my name as a candidate for governor," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Benavente

Benavente said: "This is not a good time for me to run because the opportunity that I was looking forward to

See DIEGO on Page 4

House members question NMC president, regents

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As House Speaker Arnold Palacios defined it during a meeting between members of the House of Representatives and the president of the Northern Marianas College and Board of Regents, it was the "big elephant in the room."

Palacios was referring to recent articles in the *Saipan Tribune* about concerns raised by NMC faculty and staff grievances and the Legislature's dissatisfaction.

"I want to say this for the record. The Legislature will not in any way interfere or hinder the

See HOUSE on Page 5

LAST DAY TOMORROW!
"Perfect Couples" Prepaid Deal
Only $99
Two (2) slim & lite i425's with $12.50 airtime load in each phone.
+
iCONNECT
888.8888
Offer good only from January 16, 2009 to February 28, 2009. Conditions apply.

Local

1st NMI bill in Congress gets strong support

Kilili's bill gives CNMI control of submerged lands

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The first bill introduced by the first Northern Mariana Islands representative in Congress took its first step toward passage Wednesday (Thursday on Saipan) at the first hearing of the new Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife.

H.R. 934, authored by Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan, conveys to the Commonwealth the submerged lands surrounding each of the Northern Mariana Islands out to three miles from the coastline.

In 2005, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that the CNMI did not own the submerged lands. The ruling angered many people in the Marianas, who believed the court was wrong.

Correcting the submerged land problem is high on Sablan's agenda in Congress for the Marianas.

The bill is moving quickly through the legislative process—it was only introduced on Feb. 10—and was broadly supported at the hearing. Both the chair of the Subcommittee, Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) and one of the panel's senior Republicans, Jeff Flake (AZ), are original co-sponsors.

At Wednesday's hearing, Sablan spoke eloquently about the importance of the ocean to the people of the CNMI.

"The ocean surrounding our islands has been our highway for centuries; the ocean is what brought us to our islands. It provides our people sustenance. It heals us in many ways. It is always there for recreation. It is an important part of our economy. It is our only true natural resource.

"The ocean is so important to us that our very legends are all based upon some lesson about the ocean. Our own anthem speaks about the islands in the middle of a vast ocean. Our flag is set on a field of blue that signifies the ocean. Our connection to the ocean is almost entirely encompassing," Sablan told the audience packed in the hearing room, including 18 Close Up students from the CNMI.

Sablan acknowledged that because of the importance of the oceans surrounding the islands, it was widely believed that submerged lands rightfully belonged to the people of the Northern Marianas.

And he said that control of three miles was only the first step, not the final step.

He also reminded the audience that what was important was not ownership, but rather benefiting from the ocean resources.

"I can envision a future," Sablan said "when ownership will not be an issue because the people on our islands will have the lion's share of all benefits from submerged lands and oceans surrounding us from as far north as Maug and as far south as Luta."

Testifying before the Subcommittee were the governors of the three U.S. Pacific islands: American Samoa, Guam, and NMI. All three supported Kilili's bill.

Officials of the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Council and the U.S. Department of the Interior also voiced support for H.R. 934 at the hearing.

The hearing on H.R. 934 was the first one Bordallo has conducted as chair of the newly formed subcommittee. In the previous Congress there were separate subcommittees for Insular Affairs and for Oceans and Fisheries.

Besides Bordallo, Democrats Eni F.V. Faleomavaega (AS), Donna Christensen (US VI), and Carol Shea-Porter (NH) also attended the hearing. Ranking Member Henry Brown (SC) led the Republicans, who included Doc Hastings (WA), Flake, and Robert Wittman (VA). ***(PR)***

U.S. IMMIGRATION

GREENCARD AND NATURALIZATION PROCESSING

EMPLOYMENT AND INVESTOR'S VISA SERVICES ALSO AVAILABLE

For inquiries call:

The Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar
San Jose, Saipan MP 96950
Phone (670) 234-8801/235-5466

Diabetes: Are Your Eyes Protected?

Did you know?

- Diabetes increases your risk for eye diseases such as cataracts, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy
- Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of blindness in adults
- Smoking also increases eye complications

Protect your eyes:

- Control your blood glucose and blood pressure levels
- Decrease further complications through healthier meals and life-style changes
- Make sure to get an annual eye examination
- Eliminate tobacco use

Remember, you CAN prevent diabetes.

To learn more, please contact the Division of Public Health Diabetes Prevention & Control Program at 664-4030/1

Seafood Night Buffet

Every Friday at fresko restaurant

2/27th – 4/10th

$25.00 (Adult)
$12.50 (Child)
bottomless ice tea

20% local discount applicable
San Roque Club Welcome

Bring the Whole Family!!!

The Palms on PauPau Beach

For reservations, please call The Palms on PauPau Beach at 322-3311

Citizenship, Immigration office will open in March

The Application Support Center will offer expanded services

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will open an Application Support Center on Saipan in March 2009. The grand opening ceremony will take place on March 10, 2009, at the new office in the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

"We are very excited about opening our office in the CNMI," said USCIS Honolulu district director David Gulick. "This will allow the people in the CNMI to provide their fingerprints and other biometrics without having to travel to Guam."

Applicants for biometrics will be scheduled beginning March 2. This first week will be used to work out all that is entailed with opening a new office.

The opening of the ASC is the culmination of months of work to ensure that those in the Northern Mariana Islands will be able to obtain information from USCIS.

In addition to the traditional function of fingerprinting services, people will be able to make appointments through www.uscis.gov to see an Information Officer at the ASC for general immigration questions. The customer service line (800) 375- 5283 is also now accessible toll-free from the Commonwealth. And, the most current information about federal immigration in relation to the CNMI can be accessed via the USCIS Press Room at www.uscis.gov.

If someone wants to visit the Application Support Center to ask a general immigration question, they will need to make an appointment before coming. The website, www.uscis.gov, has an easy system called "InfoPass" to make appointments. InfoPass is available in English and 11 other languages. It takes about two minutes and is very easy. At the end of the process, the customer will need to print a copy of his/her appointment notice to bring with them to the Application Support Center. This is important. A customer who has made an InfoPass appointment may change or cancel his/her appointment too.

Currently, U.S. immigration law only applies to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens as defined within the Immigration and Nationality Act . U.S. immigration law in general will be applied to the CNMI, with the transition period currently scheduled to begin on June 1, 2009.

On May 8, 2008, President Bush signed into law Public Law 110-229, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. Title VII of this law amended P.L. 94-241, the Act approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States. Title VII extends certain provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act to the CNMI for the first time in history.

USCIS is the agency within the Department of Homeland Security responsible for delivering immigration benefits. Proposed regulations concerning CNMI are currently in the clearance process. ***(PR)***

Suspected Tanapag 'ice' supplier caught

Police arrested a suspected supplier of methamphetamine hydrochloride or "ice" during a raid at his residence in Tanapag Wednesday afternoon.

Roy Sablan Norita, 40, was arrested for illegal possession of controlled substance and trafficking of a controlled substance.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Robert C. Naraja ordered that Norita's bail be kept at $30,000 cash, as previously imposed by the court.

Naraja set the preliminary hearing for March 6 at 1:30pm.

Detective Peter R. Camacho stated in his report that last Feb. 11 and 12, members of the Department of Public Safety's Narcotics Unit used a "cooperating source" to purchase "ice" from Norita.

Further police investigation disclosed that two officers received information that Norita has two high-powered rifles, Camacho said.

A check with DPS Firearms Records Section showed that the alleged firearms are not registered to anyone who resides in Norita's house, Camacho said.

The detective said the "cooperating source" went to the defendant's house and saw two high-powered carbine rifles.

Camacho did not indicate in the report how much "ice" was purchased from Norita. Court records did not indicate if more "ice" was found or if guns were seized during the search at the defendant's residence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

"One of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region"
— Retinal Physician Magazine, April 2008
Come see!
Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"
Meeting your eye care needs with excellence.
One-Hour Glasses • Contacts • Medicine, Surgery • Laser
Dr. Mark Robertson, OD
Magna Cum Laude
Dr. David Khorram, MD
"America's Top Ophthalmologists"
Walk-Ins Welcome
Yes! We accept Aetna, Staywell, Medicaid/Medicare, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Tricare, and more
235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan, Across 13 Fishermen Monument • MarianasEye.com

DIEGO

From Page 1

for the past four years is not there."

The lawmaker, however, is optimistic that a "better time" will come in the future.

"I will have to wait for another opportunity in the future and I am hoping for that better situation someday," he said.

Citing the lack of support he needed in the gubernatorial race, he admitted he was a bit disappointed.

"But I need to be realistic…because it takes a lot to run for the Office of the Governor. I don't want to bring my family and [supporters] to a race that we cannot win," he said.

Benavente, however, said that he has yet to make a decision if he will seek re-election at the House of Representatives.

"Although I admit that people are encouraging me to run…I haven't made a firm decision at this time," he said.

The lawmaker also admitted that the "economic hard times" contributed to his decision to back out.

"A lot of my family [cannot commit], not because they don't want to help… but they are preoccupied with their own challenges. …I know a lot of them have been pushing me to run for office…and I can only apologize to them because that opportunity may come in the future," Benavente said, adding he completely understands the difficulties faced by every CNMI citizen.

Benavente served as lieutenant governor under former governor Juan N. Babauta and ran with him again under the Republican ticket in 2005. Babauta picked Board of Education member Galvin Deleon Guerrero as his running mate in this year's elections.

Asked if he will support Babauta's ticket, Benavente declined to comment.

"I've been in the political arena for over 20 years now…and I can only say that I've been a loyal and staunch supporter of the Republican Party. I intend to continue to be loyal and whoever it endorses as candidates I will give my support," he said.

Republican Party chair Ed Tenorio is currently on official trip to Washington, D.C. with some education officials. He is

See DIEGO on Next Page

ABOLISHING

From Page 1

exclusively Chamorros and Carolinians.

"The Covenant does not refer to Carolinians or Chamorros, but to 'persons of Northern Mariana Islands descent' for this very reason," said one of the group's core members, Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan.

"Article 12 actually also allowed persons of any national origin through adoption, and even corporations to be officially designated 'persons of Northern Marianas decent.' The argument that the end of Article 12 is the end of the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures is a myth and unrelated to the issues surrounding Article 12," she added.

Five of the core members of Citizens for Change to Article 12 led by chair Efrain F. Camacho met Wednesday night at the Fiesta Resort and Spa to discuss their strategies to reach out to more members of the community, including the youth and members of the Legislature.

Lawyer Vince Seman, a member of the group, said it is "premature" to get the repeal of Article 12 on the ballot in the November 2009 elections but the group will educate people on the pros of repealing the land alienation provision of the Constitution.

Camacho said the longer it takes to educate people about the importance of repealing Article 12, the better. The group has been meeting with different groups, and is willing to meet with others to discuss the advantages of repealing Article 12.

"This group is not forcing people to sell their land. This group is for equality. This group is here to get people to objectively look at Article 12," he said.

Section 805 of the Covenant allows the CNMI to revisit its land alienation restrictions 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in 1986. That 25-year period will end in 2011.

Of the three ways to repeal Article 12—popular vote, Constitutional Convention and legislative initiative—Pangelinan said the legislative initiative is the easiest but lawmakers should let voters decide on the issue rather than kill the initiative themselves. She cited the case when the House turned down the initiative on the 75-year land lease.

"Those people who oppose abolishing Article 12 try to use culture as an excuse. Culture is not static. We should look at it as a process of evolution. The Chamorros and Carolinians have adopted portions of other cultures which they now consider as part of their own," said Pangelinan, citing as an example fee simple ownership, which she said is a concept brought here by Germans.

Another group, the CNMI Descent for Self-Government and Indigenous Rights, opposes any move that will repeal Article 12, which they said was designed to prevent the marginalization of the indigenous population.

Inequality

Seman cited examples of how Article 12 creates inequality.

For example, a Chinese or Korean baby—who is adopted by a Chamorro parent—is considered 100 percent NMD and therefore can own land even though the baby does not have a Chamorro blood.

On the other hand, according to Camacho, the child of a Chamorro who marries someone from the United States mainland or from Asia is considered only 50 percent NMD despite having at least one biological parent who is a Chamorro. When the child with Chamorro blood marries a non-NMD and bears a child, that child is considered only 25 percent NMD. That child's child, even if he has a Chamorro blood, could no longer own the land that would be passed down to him by her parents, grandparents or great grand parents.

"So how can you say that Article 12 provides more equality?" said Camacho.

Many of the Chamorro and Carolinian youth in the CNMI and abroad face losing rights to their family's land because of the land alienation provision of the Constitution, the group said.

Seman said a Palauan, for example, who was brought to the Northern Marianas by the Japanese in 1946 and made Saipan their home was considered an NMD.

"Another example is my grandmother. My grandfather married a 100 percent Japanese. She was living on Saipan during the war as a nurse at the old Japanese hospital. She lived here…and she's considered also 100 percent NMD even though she doesn't have Chamorro or Carolinian blood," he said.

David Sablan, also a core member of the Citizens for Change to Article 12, said Article 12 "forces people to marry locals if they want to keep their land."

"I don't think this is right. We must have the freedom to marry who we want to marry," he said. "We sent our children abroad to go to school, to be educated… While they are away, they marry somebody who is outsider and if you understand the blood dilution, from 100 percent to 25 percent, and if you go below 25 percent, you can no longer own that land [that your family owns]."

Rescue the future generation

Sablan, who is married to a Guamanian, said their children are considered 50 percent NMD. Their children's children, he said, are 25 percent NMD. Their great grandchildren can no longer own land.

"That child cannot own the land I passed on to my own offspring and this, to me, is unfair. What happens to the land after the dilution of the blood below 25 percent? It goes to the government. You see? That is the reason why we believe we should rescue the future generation from this kind of inequity," he said.

He added, "Let's think about the future of our children and future generations. Otherwise, in due course, all these lands are going to revert to the government. Is this fair? I don't think so. I want to die knowing that the property I leave with my family will remain with my family's name. If they want to sell, that's up to them but at least they know it's coming from me and not from the government."

Alex Sablan, also a member of the core group, said 30 years have gone by and it's now high time for residents to decide for themselves without the government dictating to them what to do with their property.

The group is currently raising funds to, among other things, put up a Web site so CNMI youths across the globe will be able to read about the issue of Article 12, for them to decide for themselves should the issue is put on the ballot.

David Sablan said they are also looking for other members who believe that Article 12 should be repealed. Interested members can contact him at 483 1827.

IS THE

From Page 1

Although top CNMI officials have already submitted a request for a 180-day delay to the Department of Homeland Security, there is no guarantee that it will take place. Any decision on that issue must be made and Congress must be notified no later than 30 days prior to the start of the transition period, which would be May 2.

Is the CNMI ready if no delay occurs?

"I don't think we're comfortable" with a June 1 start, said Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office.

There are many regulations that have still not been released, he added.

"We still need more clarity. I don't think all of the regulations have been finalized. We've seen some of them," he said, referring to the proposed Guam-CNMI visa waiver program, which, he said, was not very encouraging. Under the proposed program, China and Russia—two emerging tourism markets in the CNMI—were left off the list.

A six-month delay would allow for more time for citizens from those countries to enter the CNMI without a visa, Reyes said.

Critical markets

Rep. Diego T. Benavente, chairman of the U.S. and Foreign Relations Committee, said he is also concerned about the loss of the two markets if the Act pushes through on June 1.

"There are concerns with issues about uncertainty. We haven't even seen regulations for the transition period. Even if all the language in the transition regulations accommodate what we asked for, the biggest concern we have is how it will affect the Russia and China markets," he said. "Those two markets are so critical. It's gong to hurt greatly, especially the people of Tinian because of Tinian Dynasty." Tinian Dynasty caters to the Chinese market.

Regulations regarding foreign investors and nonresident workers are still under development. A spokesperson for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services division of DHS yesterday said the regulations are in the clearance process but there is no set timeframe when they will be issued to the public.

Is DHS ready?

The question, however, is not whether the CNMI is ready for the June 1 start date, according to Rep. Tina Sablan. Rather, it is whether Homeland Security is ready.

"From our side, there's still a lot of ambiguity and confusion on how we make the transition exactly," she said.

There are questions regarding local control of the Labor Department once the law goes into effect, the representative said.

"If that's not clear to us, I'm not sure it's clear to the Department of Homeland Security or any other federal agencies that are supposed to be involved in this process," she added.

During a meeting with Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and other federal and insular area officials this week, CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan voiced his concerns that there is currently no plan to create visas for immediate relatives of residents. With no visa available, IRs will not be able to re-enter the CNMI if they must leave.

Rep. Sablan said she is also hoping the CNMI's lawsuit against the federal government seeking to halt the start of the Act will be thrown out before June 1, in order for CNMI officials to work with DHS on developing the regulations.

"We're in the dark, and of course suing the federal government keeps us in the dark," she said.

Reyes, for his part, said it is now up to Homeland Security to make their decision. The governor, delegate, House and business community have all expressed their desire for a delay, so it is now up to DHS, he added.

Reduced work-hours, rethinking strategy

At any rate, some businesses, including tour agencies catering to Chinese and Russian tourists, have started rethinking their marketing strategies and reducing overhead costs in anticipation of a sure cut in revenue come June 1.

Top Development Inc. said that 50 percent of its clients are Chinese tourists who, along with Russian tourists, will soon be required to secure a U.S. visa to enter the CNMI.

"It's really hard to plan everything until you know what's going to happen but there are some things we started already. We reduced work hours of employees, and started saving on utility costs and other overhead costs," said Pete Ladrillo, accountant at TDI.

He said for the past two years, TDI has seen a 10-percent increase in Chinese tourists but this will change once the Guam/CNMI visa waiver program takes effect.

Ladrillo said TDI finds it difficult to focus on Chinese tourists who are green card holders or who already have U.S. visas. He added that TDI may not be able to market in China until September, three months after the June 1 start of federalization.

"We will stick with our Japanese services. We already expect lower revenues when we wouldn't have that many Chinese tourists anymore. They already know that it will be hard for them to come here by June 1. So we have started preparing for that," Ladrillo added.

The possible loss of the Chinese market also worries multimillion casino investments proposed on Tinian. Bridge Investment Group, for example, has started re-evaluating its $40 million to $50 million casino and condominium projects on Tinian until the visa waiver program and the federalization regulations are in place. Construction at the project site has halted.

Who will pay?

At the local Division of Immigration, Director Melvin Grey has a somewhat different, if practical, concern: Who will pay the salaries of local Immigration staff in case DHS grants the request for the 180-day delay?

"If they grant an extension then, we still have our authority. And then the issue comes in whether the CNMI would fund [the division] or if the feds would fund it until they do take over," Grey said.

The Immigration director said they don't have any "Plan A or Plan B" with respect to the implementation of federalization.

"If they [DHS] don't allow an extension, then the CNMI Immigration has no authority beginning June 1" because the federal government will take over the CNMI's overall immigration.

"So we just step aside. We walk out the floor at midnight of May 31st," he said.

Grey said that, just like everybody else, they are just waiting for Homeland Security's move because they are in control.

"They are the ones with the authority. They're the ones that made this law and we are just sitting here thinking, 'Okay, what are you going to do next? How you are going to do the regulations? What are you going to do on the transition? What date are you coming in?'" he said.

Federal immigration officials, Grey said, have been telling them that the implementation will be by June 1, and there has been no hint whether they will delay it.

The director said indications are that there will be an extension because Homeland Security has nothing on the ground yet.

"They have done nothing at the airport," he pointed out.

Citing news articles that there's no funding yet for the implementation, Grey said indications are that DHS is not ready by June 1, but they "haven't told the CNMI for sure."

HOUSE

From Page 1

effort of the college to get back on track and get its accreditation," Palacios said. "I think it was a misunderstanding. The chairman was perhaps misquoted or did not articulate the message."

The Speaker asked Rep. Ralph DLG Torres, chairman of the Health, Education and Welfare Committee, to set up a meeting with the president and regents about the school's accreditation.

Earlier this month the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges placed NMC on continued show-cause status until it meets the remaining standards being asked by the accrediting body.

Since then, criticism has been brought against NMC president Carmen Fernandez. Some faculty and staff have also claimed there is a high level of dissatisfaction at the college.

"It's is our obligation as elected officials to find out if there are merits to some of the issues being raised," Palacios said, adding that the Legislature is in no way trying to meddle.

In attendance from NMC was Fernandez, Cepeda, vice chair Maria T. Peter, regent Agnes M. McPhetres, and regent Janet King.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider brought up a letter he submitted that voiced his concerns about management issues at the college.

"Several of us attended a hastily put together meeting and most the faculty and staff of the college were there and expressed their concerns collectively," he said.

The representative said he was not concerned by the personality and emotions brought up during the meeting, but rather if proper policies are being followed.

"It appeared to me the college is lacking accommodations of grievances of faculty and staff," he said.

"We in the Legislature have never meddled into the college," he added. "But once significant faculty, significant staff come to me airing grievances, that tells me either they're not willing to work with you and the administration and Board of Regents, or the policies in place are not being implemented, in respect that grievance are not being accommodated."

Hofschneider denied that, along with the two-page letter he wrote Fernandez, were two additional pages listing various examples of improper hires and forced resignations. The pages list names of individuals related to members of the Legislature.

"By way of that letter, someone with knowledge of the college submitted it to the *Tribune*," he said, at which point Rep. Torres reminded him the meeting was about the college's accreditation.

"It will affect accreditation," he said. "I will not go into detail. All I'm going to say is those people are undeserving of their names in the paper. Someone came up with the document that was submitted with my letter to you. Those kids don't deserve criticisms and the castigation and the uncertainty of whether they were appropriately hired. These things are evidence of a process that is lacking. Open it up. Allow them to come in and to contribute. But be firm. Those who are not performing, those who are not contributing to the betterment of the college, good riddance."

Stimulus

In response to a question raised by Rep. Tina Sablan, NMC president Fernandez said the college was working with the Public School System for a piece of the stimulus money.

"Most of that money is a race," she said. "It's a competition."

The president said the college was taking full opportunity of any additional funding sources. Unfortunately, there is only one shovel-ready project—a requirement for the competitive grants under the stimulus package, she said.

DIEGO

From Page 4

expected to be back this weekend.

It was earlier disclosed that the party will hold its primary in June between Heinz Hofschneider and Babauta, who also both declared their candidacies under the Republican banner.

Broadcast License Assignment

On February 13, 2009 an application was filed with the FCC to assign the license of stations KCNM(AM), 1080 KHz, Saipan, KCNM-FM, 101.1 MHz, Garapan-Saipan and KZMI(FM), 103.9 MHz, Garapan-Saipan from Inter-Island Communications, Inc to Choice Broadcasting Company, LLC.

The officers, directors and owners of the assignor are Edward H. Poppe, Frances W. Poppe, Edward H. Poppe III, Michelle Aguon, Matthew J. Poppe and Cheryl Kelly.

The managers and members of the assignee are Richard C. Yu, Jeselyn T. Yu and Robert F. Kelley, Jr.

A copy of the application, amendments and related materials are on file for public inspection at Inter-Island Communications Inc. Sablan Bldg San Jose Saipan.

Protect your eyes in high style
Tag Heuer
Fendi
Let our certified opticians help you select the perfect frame to fit you and your lifestyle.
HARDT EYE CLINIC
DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.
235-2030 • Located on Beach Road next to Megabyte
We accept most insurance plans and all major credit cards
SERVICES OFFERED:
• Thorough examinations for eye disease • Treatment for infections and injuries
• Glaucoma treatment • Diabetic eye care • Infant/children eye exams

"Perfect Couples" Prepaid Deal
ONLY $99
+
i425
Lightest PTT Phone
Voice Dialing
USB Connector
Color Display
for two (2) slim & lite i425's with $12.50 airtime load in each phone.
iCONNECT
Saipan - Guam Office 888.8888 / www.iconnectsaipan.com
Offer good only from January 16, 2009 to February 28, 2009. Conditions apply.
LAST DAY TOMORROW!

Drop in public high school graduates expected this year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Administrators and school officials in at least three public high schools in the Commonwealth expect a decline in this year's potential graduates because of the exodus of families and their children and the changes in graduation requirements.

Graduation requirements this year went up from 21 to 28 credits for all senior students. Many residents and nonresident have left the island because of the economic crisis.

At Saipan Southern High School, the number of graduates are expected to fall from last year's 147 to only 107 this year.

SSHS vice principal Craig Garrison said the figure is the lowest graduation number in the school's history. "This is the smallest batch of graduating class in the six-year history of SSHS," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He attributed the significant decline to the exodus of local families due to economic hardship. "Many students moved off-island this school year and that's part of the main reason. Also, we have some students who do not have enough credits because of the challenging schedules to meet the new English and math credit requirements," he said.

Four years ago, the Board of Education adopted a policy changing the requirements for English from 6 to 8 credit units and in math from 3 to 6 credit units for graduating seniors.

This year's batch is the first group affected by the policy change.

"Normally, if we see a significant drop in our graduation, it would probably be attributed to a large number of kids who are retained. But we don't have a lot of kids retained this school year," he said, adding that this was also a direct result of low enrollment of seniors since the beginning of the school year.

SSHS, one of the five biggest high schools on Saipan, has an enrollment of 740.

At Marianas High School, potential graduates seem to be stable at present as all 215 seniors are expected to march.

MHS principal Karen Borja revealed that last SY 2007-2008, they had 213 graduates.

This year's number, she said, still depends on students if they continue to show good performances until their finals.

She believes there are few students who are also affected by the new credit requirements. "We have a few students who do not make it even with the 21 credits," she said.

Borja added that some other factors include the lack of preparation of students. Some also find difficulty in making progress in English.

The unstable economy on island, Borja said, also contributed to the failure of some students because it's hard for them to complete the required hours of instruction while working for their families.

MHS is home to 1,209 students.

At Rota High School, only 36 students are expected to graduate this school year. It has a total enrollment of 177.

Live fire releases on FDM in March

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, would like to inform the public that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire releases on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla from March 2 to 5, from 8am to 10pm.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(PR)***

Budweiser®
ARE YOU TAOTAO BUD?
TAOTAO Bud
FREE LIMITED EDITION TAOTAO BUD GEAR!
PURCHASE ANY 12 PACK OF BUD FAMILY PRODUCTS AND RECEIVE A TAOTAO BUD GAME PIECE. COLLECT GAME PIECES TO WIN:
3 LATTE STONE CARDS
T-SHIRT OR
CUTTING BOARD
3 PROA CARDS
HAT OR
SLING BAG
3 SLING STONE CARDS
DECAL OR
LANYARD
CALL 233-4BUD (4283) FOR REDEMPTION LOCATIONS.
MUST BE 21 YEARS OR OLDER TO PARTICIPATE.
RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS

Tinian residents back Neo Gold Wings land lease

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A letter signed by 61 Tinian residents supports Neo Gold Wings Paradise's proposal to lease 3,000 hectares of public land in the Pina area where it hopes to build a "6-star, 1,000-room" hotel resort and casino worth $200 million to $500 million.

"Under our current economic situation, we must all rally [behind] and support by giving Neo Gold Wings Paradise the opportunity to help us restore our economy," the 61 residents said in a letter addressed to Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios.

Antonio H. Borja, chairman of the Tinian Municipal Council, also supports Neo Gold Wings Paradise's land lease proposal, subject to a thorough review of the provisional lease "to ensure that we, the owners of the public lands, are protected while at the same time ensure that positive economic boost is forthcoming."

"We admit that Tinian's economy must be stimulated. This public land lease proposal may just be that stimulus. As you may know, Neo Gold Wings Paradise is proposing to build 800-1,000 rooms, with tourist amenities, which is exactly what we need to continue to promote and sell Tinian as a fun destination and a playground in paradise," Borja said in a letter to Sen. Jude U. Hofshneider, chairman of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs.

Hofschneider's committee and the House Committee on Natural Resources chaired by Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb held a public hearing on the proposed land agreement between the Department of Public Lands and Neo Gold Wings Paradise on Feb. 12 in the Tinian courthouse.

"So far, the committee has not received formal or written comments opposing the land lease proposal," Hofschneider said Wednesday.

Two days after the public hearing on Tinian, 61 Tinian residents submitted a letter in support of Neo Gold Wings Paradise's investment on the island, which has one operating casino, the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, and two other investors with permits to also develop casinos.

The Tinian residents said Neo Gold Wings Paradise had shown its willingness to participate in the economic development of Tinian and the CNMI.

"Neo Gold Wings Paradise had made it very clear that it will be a difficult task, but working in partnership with the community and the CNMI leadership is imperative to realize progress," the residents said.

They also said that the DPL secretary has done due diligence in providing "a well structured and worded lease agreement, including a schedule in securing financing and actual construction timeframe."

The residents urged the House and Senate leadership to call for a joint session to give ample time for the joint legislative committee "to complete their committee report and favorable recommendation."

Borja, in his two-page letter, said once Neo Gold Wings Paradise begins construction on the public land, it will have a positive trickle-down effect on Tinian's economy.

"It is no secret that if we continue to nurture our casino industry, more jobs will be created for our local people and foreign workers alike. It means more revenues for the people of Tinian and a brighter future. Therefore, the proposed land lease of Neo Gold Wings Paradise should be approved," he said.

Plans and proposals to build new casinos on Tinian come at a time when the federal government is about to take over CNMI immigration by June 1.

Last week, Neo Gold Wings Paradise chairman and president Hyun Myung told the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that he's not questioning the reasons behind the implementation of federal immigration regulations in the CNMI and the exclusion of Chinese and Russian tourists from the federal visa waiver program but he is "quite baffled by the lack of sensitivity" to its economic effect.

Hofschneider: DPL, Neo Gold Wings are still working on land lease deal

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider yesterday said the Department of Public Lands and Neo Gold Wings Paradise are still working on a land lease agreement involving hectares of land on Tinian where a $200 million to $500 million hotel resort and casino project will be built.

Hofschneider

The two parties met yesterday with the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs chaired by Hofschneider and the House Committee on Natural Resources chaired by Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb to try to iron out issues on the proposed land lease agreement.

Earlier, Hofschneider said DPL wanted to reduce the land proposed for lease—from 300 hectares to about 160 hectares.

The parties will meet again with the legislative committees on Monday.

"The reason why we called the meetings is that we saw possible fallout between DPL and Neo Gold Wings. We don't want to see that. I, as chairman of the committee, feel it's our responsibility to entertain the proposal and look at the proposed lease and bridge the gap," Hofschneider said.

Once the land lease issue is dealt with between DPL and Neo Gold Wings, the House and Senate will resume the cancelled joint session on Wednesday to tackle the lease agreement.

Neo Gold Wings Paradise is proposing to lease approximately 300 hectares of public land on Tinian's Pina Area for the construction of a "six-star, 1,000-room mega hotel resort and casino."

Two other investors are proposing to build casino and hotel resorts on Tinian, which so far has only one operating casino, the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

EMO warns of high surf

The Emergency Management Office has issued high surf and small craft advisories this Friday and Saturday as hazardous surf on east facing shores are expected at the start of the weekend.

EMO, based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, said breezy trade winds are expected to produce large wind waves and swells today and tomorrow. The high surf and small craft advisories remain in effect until 5pm Saturday.

Due to rising seas in the region, EMO is advising the public—especially beachgoers, fishermen, tourists, swimmers, divers, and surfers—to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially along east facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening.

The public should expect hazardous surf of 10 to 12 feet along east facing exposures this weekend. ***(PR)***

Tax Season Business Hours
H&R BLOCK®
Tax Services
Beach Road, South Garapan
PMB 674 Box 10003 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-4728 • Fax: (670) 235-6726
(Feb. 20th to Apr. 15th)
8:00am to 8:00pm Monday through Saturday
1:00pm to 5:00pm Every Sunday
H&R BLOCK | Dong Boo Repair | Best Fishing | Saipan Computer | Marianas Eye Institute
To Duty Free Shop | Beach Road, South Garapan | To San Jose
13th Fishermen Monument

IT&E
Island Cruizer
cool deals on wheels
Weekend Prepaid Sale!
SAMSUNG
NOKIA
MOTOROLA V262
$50.00**
CDMA
SAMSUNG U410
$75.00**
CDMA - CAMERA PHONE
NOKIA 3200
$50.00*
GSM (TRI-BAND,CAMERA)
MOTOROLA V220
$75.00*
GSM (TRI-BAND,CAMERA)
February 28, 2009 • 10:00am to 2:00pm
XO Market (Gualo Rai)
Wireless Express Center (TSL Plaza, Garapan)
Available in Tinian & Rota on Mondays (CDMA Phones Only)
FREE AIRTIME! when using PTI Long Distance Prepaid Card
* GSM Phones includes IT&E GSM SIM Card & Free $20.00 Load • ** CDMA Phones includes Free $20.00 Load
*** Cannot keep number • while supplies last • No phonebook transfer • Credit cards will not be accepted • some conditions apply
IT&E
Life in Motion
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

Japanese school marks 11th trip

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over a hundred students from Japan's Seisa Gakuen and Aoba School made their over decades-long educational trip to Saipan public schools yesterday.

Headed by school principal Kuboki Satoshi, a total of 120 Japanese students arrived on island last Wednesday where a special dinner was hosted by local counterparts at Marianas High School.

Yesterday, half of the group joined students from San Antonio Elementary School as they celebrated their annual cultural week.

Frank Demapan, a sixth grade teacher and co-chair of yesterday's event, said this year marks the biggest delegation from Seisa Gakuen ever accommodated by the school.

"This is the biggest group we've ever accommodated and we're happy to host them in their 11th year," Demapan said, adding that special activities are planned for both local and foreign students.

In a welcome ceremony, both groups rendered cultural performances and exchanged gifts as a symbol of the schools' partnership.

The visitors, along with their local counterparts, were seen enjoying each other's company during the banana painting project on campus. Traditional games and other sports activities also wowed the visiting students as well as the sharing of lunch with their counterparts.

Demapan said a tree-planting activity served as the event's highlight because students were asked to plant one for the other school as a symbol of their friendship.

"We want all students to know and understand other cultures of the world. By doing this cultural exchange, they learn to appreciate and build respect among each other and that's our goal," Demapan said, adding that the Japanese school is the only foreign school that is constantly visiting their counterparts this time of the year.

According to Japanese teacher Mariko Saito, the annual trip excites the kids.

Besides cultural activities with San Antonio and Marianas High School, the group is also scheduled to visit the island's historical spots. They are scheduled to go back to Japan on Monday.

For sixth grader Diana Aquino, interacting with their Japanese counterparts gives her a chance to build her confidence and trust in other people.

She said while her partner enjoyed the banana-painting activity, she was having fun with Japanese origami.

Donovan Iba, sixth grader, said he's proud to share with his counterpart the CNMI national anthem and the school's Peace Builder's pledge.

Mount Carmel School
1952
SAIPAN • NORTHERN MARIANAS
7th Annual
GOLF TOURNAMENT
Lao Lao Bay West Course
Date of Tournament has beeh changed
from March 14, 2009 to May 09, 2009.
Registration Time: 06:30 a.m.
Tee Time: 07:30 a.m.
DONATION: $100.00
(includes Green/Cart fees, prize & banquet)
Trophies and other gift prizes will be given to top three winners of each flight category.
(Championship, A-Flight, B-Flight, C-Flight, Seniors, and Ladies)
Awards and Banquet will be held following the tournament at the Lao Lao Bay Golf Course.
For more information, you may call Louise Concepcion at 235-1285 or Margaret Dela Cruz at 235-1251.
Tournament sponsored by the
Mount Carmel School Inc.
COME HELP SUPPORT THE ONLY CATHOLIC SCHOOL ON SAIPAN

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 27, 2001

2-year job contract for aliens proposed

If the government is really serious about creating a business-friendly environment in the CNMI, it should begin with implementing an amended policy on the employment contracts of nonresident workers. Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona is proposing that the government refine existing policies that relate to the employment contracts of nonresident workers to make it applicable for a two-year period, instead of the current one-year coverage. "Nonresident worker contracts should be renewed every two years not annually, said Mr. Manglona in a written testimony on the proposed legislative measure that seeks to reform existing government regulations.

Total ban on tobacco use in NMI restaurants sought

Implementation of stricter programs on anti-tobacco use in restaurants and other business establishments throughout the islands may jeopardize increased efforts to lure more visitors into the Northern Marianas. This same concern prompted the Department of Public Health to call for a review by the Legislature of such policy's possible impacts in the local tourism industry. Commonwealth Health Center pediatrician Norma Ada told the Legislature that certain places in the mainland US no longer allow smoking practices in enclosed areas. Some restaurants have, in fact, banned the use of cigarettes when dining while others put up a separate area for smokers alone.

February 27, 2002

OSHA rep on Saipan to investigate fatal PCB machine incident

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration yesterday started probing the death of a Filipino worker who was burned at the PCB treatment site in Tanapag, following the arrival of its representative from San Francisco, California, Monday night. At the same time, the Philippine Consulate office on Saipan vowed to assist the family of deceased Roberto Alazar in pursuing monetary claims. Andy Salcedo, a safety engineer from OSHA's Region IX, immediately conducted an inspection of the work site yesterday and conducted interviews with at least two workers, including a survivor from the February 16 fatal incident.

Few Japanese think NMI is a fairly-priced destination

Only 16.7 percent of Japanese tourists who visited the Northern Marianas in January 2001 and 17.96 percent in January 2002 believed that the CNMI's tourist destinations are fairly priced. A Marianas Visitors Authority-administered exit survey released Monday disclosed that majority of Japanese travelers who visited the islands said they came here to relax and enjoy various sport activities. Out of at least 20,000 respondents, 14,646 in January 2001 and 11,881 in January 2002 said that pleasure is their dominant reason for visiting the islands, while golfing and diving received an approval rate of 19.17 percent and 16.96 percent in January 2001 and 2002, respectively.

February 27, 2004

NGA backs NMI's delegate bid

In preparation for this week's hearing on the potential for a Northern Marianas delegate in Congress, Gov. Juan N. Babauta has succeeded in having the National Governor Association renew its support for the grant of such a status. "I am very grateful for the support the nation's governors have shown for the people of the Northern Marianas," said Babauta after the vote approving the delegate policy. "I'm particularly grateful to Governors Association chairman Dirk Kempthorne. Because of his previous experience as a member of the U.S. Senate committee with responsibility for the U.S. insular areas, Governor Kempthorne understands the issue of representation for the Northern Marianas." The association is composed of all 55 U.S. governors, representing the 50 states and the five non-State areas of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

'No need for oversight hearing on NMC'

House Education Committee chairman Justo Quitugua said yesterday that he has no plans to subject the Northern Marianas College to an oversight hearing, despite information he gathered confirming the institution's serious financial woes. "We're not going to do an oversight. We want to give the college more opportunity to refocus," said Quitugua. The lawmaker pointed out that it has become a practice that, whenever a big problem arises, affected agencies have a tendency to throw the problem to the Legislature for it to help solve the problem.

JOETEN 60th ANNIVERSARY

Give Your Budget A Break!

Bargain In Every Aisle!

FEBRUARY 27 - March 4, 2009

Men's Brigata Silk Printed Shirt
$41.99

Ladies S/L Round Neck Top
$5.99

Boy's Toddler Stripe Tees
$4.99

Girl's Sonoma Kinit Short
$6.99

Infant Baby Bib "Love"
$1.09

Suave Shampoo or Conditioner 15oz.
$1.49

Aquamarine Lotion 14.8oz.
$1.59

John Frieda Shampoo or Conditioner 8.4oz.
$3.99

WF Toothbrush 1+1
79¢

Hamilton Beach 18qrt. Oven Roaster
$59.99

Vidal Sassoon 12pc. Haircuting Kit
$15.99

Laundry Basket White 1.75BU
$7.99

Padded Moon Chair
$23.99

3pc. Bath Room Set
$18.99

Door Mat
$6.99

Plastic Bag Saver
$3.99

Easy Hamper
$5.99

Proctor Silex Iron
$14.99

Summer!

Aloha Maid Products 24/11.5oz.
$10.99/CS.

Hafa Adai Water 24/350ml.
$6.98/CS.

Coke Products 24/12oz.
$13.99/CS.

Kristov Vodka Cruisers 274ml.
$1.09/ea.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce 1.6 liter
$3.99

CSR Sugar White Poly 2kg. 4.4lbs.
$1.79

Diamond G. Calrose Rice 50lbs.
$34.95

Springfield Oil Veg. 48oz.
$5.35

Bounty Paper Towel 1 Roll
$1.29

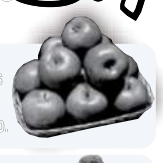
Soft N Gentle Bath Tissue 4 Roll
$1.69

Kingsford Sure Fire Charcoal 18lbs.
$11.39

Gain Powder Regular 120 Load
$17.99

U.S. Produce

Look for the savings and more throughout our store!



Fuji Apples
95¢ lb.

Potatoes
69¢ lb.

Carrots
75¢ lb.

Red Globe Grapes
$1.89/lb.

U.S. Orange
89¢ lb.

Brocolli Crown
99¢ lb.

Green Bell Pepper
$1.15/lb.

Visit us for more savings at our Produce section!

LOW LOW PRICES

Frozen Products

Chicken Leg Quarters
22lb.
$18.99/cs.

New Zealand Boneless Beef Clod
$1.99/lb.

Pork Spareribs
20lbs.
$17.99/cs.

Pork Spareribs 2 Down Danish 10lbs.
$18.49/cs.

Tilapia/Milkfish
$1.49/lb.

Whole Chicken Fryers
30lbs.
$36.99/cs.

Come for more selections!

Aiko's SNACK BAR

Accepts Phone Orders

Lunch is available Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please call 234-6445 for daily specials!

Joeten Shopping Center

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 - Tel. 234-6446/48 Fax. 234-5876

Thank you for shopping at all Joeten Stores: Joeten Shopping Center Susupe, Hafa Adai Shopping Center, Dandan Shopping Center and Big Bargain Chalan Piao

We accept major credit cards - We welcome Foodstamps - We reserve the right to limit quantities

We are not responsible for any typographical or printing error

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 50

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The president's priorities

Facing an economic crisis, a banking crisis, a housing crisis and an auto industry crisis, President Obama used the opportunity of his address to a joint session of Congress this week to load his plate with even more. Mr. Obama said he would press ahead with plans to overhaul the nation's health-care system, bolster education and lead the transition to new forms of energy—all while curing cancer and getting the deficit under control.

We understand the president's instinct not to let short-term demands obscure the need to meet the country's long-term challenges. His priorities for fundamental reform, the causes that animated his campaign, are admirable ones. Yet we cannot help wondering: Isn't the most critical task to ensure a swift and effective response to the stomach-churning downturn? Does a new, understaffed administration have the capacity to try so much so fast? And does the political system have the bandwidth to accommodate all that Mr. Obama is asking from it?

"The recovery plan and the financial stability plan are the immediate steps we're taking to revive our economy in the short-term," Mr. Obama said. "But the only way to fully restore America's economic strength is to make the long-term investments that will lead to new jobs, new industries and a renewed ability to compete with the rest of the world. The only way this century will be another American century is if we confront at last the price of our dependence on oil and the high cost of health care; the schools that aren't preparing our children and the mountain of debt they stand to inherit."

Mr. Obama said the budget he will submit Thursday will reflect "the stark reality of what we've inherited—a trillion-dollar deficit, a financial crisis and a costly recession," and that "worthy priorities" will have to be sacrificed. But his message was more about what could be done than what would have to be left out. Mr. Obama said his administration has "already identified two trillion dollars in savings over the next decade," but about half of that involves his long-promised rollback of tax cuts from the previous administration.

In this economic emergency, the most important goal for Mr. Obama is one he laid out near the beginning of his speech: "We will rebuild, we will recover, and the United States of America will emerge stronger than before." As he acknowledged Tuesday night, to enable that recovery the administration may well need to go back to Congress to seek more money for ailing banks. Given the public mood and lawmakers who feel burned by the handling of the first $350 billion infusion, that will be a hard enough lift in and of itself. As Mr. Obama also noted, the American public is understandably skeptical about whether the money Washington has already committed to spend will be wasted. Even the political capital of the popular Mr. Obama is not unlimited. We hope he does not spread it so broadly that he is left without the means to extinguish the fires raging now.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Letter to the Editor

Fair and equal treatment for Tinian and Rota

To Janna Evans of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services: First, thank you for your help with correcting the Federal Register website. It is reassuring that requests for change in the federal bureaucracy can actually be accomplished for the betterment of the CNMI. I hope this is a step in the right direction as we identify more inequalities in federal bureaucracy and we can work together to make those changes necessary to correct them.

One of the most important and eminent policy changes that are necessary for the residents of Tinian and Rota is for an equal and fair USCIS office to be established on Rota and Tinian. This is a major concern for residents and businesses of both Tinian and Rota islands.

Although I understand the policy position of resident numbers required to justify the opening of a USCIS office, I had earlier pointed out that a middle ground solution could be the opening of a temporary USCIS office on the outer islands. The USCIS/DHS Office would be set up for the first six months, just to service the initial heavy demand those islands would have. Once that demand has diminished, then USCIS could close the office and then service the outer islands on a weekly and/or bi-weekly "circuit ride" basis. It is imperative that DHS and USCIS understand and recognize the profound financial hardship that it will place on residents of Tinian and Rota. A single person traveling to Saipan from Tinian for a one-day trip would incur a cost of $310. A single person traveling to Saipan from Rota for a one-day trip would incur a cost of $440. This does not include repeated visits necessary to process USCIS paperwork, and it does not include costs for businesses to process paperwork for their staff, which would multiply these figures by the amount of employees the company has. For instance, the Tinian Dynasty has 600 employees, the Rota Resort has 80 employees. How could a company possibly survive if they were expected to send all their personnel to Saipan in order to process immigration paperwork over the course of several visits?

It is important to recognize some very crucial issues.

1. PL 110-229 established two ports of entry on the islands of Tinian and Rota. Those ports of entry deserve equal service and security measures given by USCIS/DHS that it grants to any other port of entry in the U.S., much less Guam and Saipan. If USCIS/DHS is saying that the population or the security concerns are not relevant enough to open an office on Tinian or Rota, then why did the public law identify two ports of entry on each of those islands? Are the residents of those islands less deserving of service and security protection than those on Guam and Saipan?

2. PL 110-229 also allows DHS to collect revenue for the expenses of operations in the CNMI from the fees it collects from administering the immigration program in the CNMI. This is very different from Guam and the US Virgin Islands, where those funds are required to be returned to those island governments, which incurs a deficit in the DHS operating budget. So, in all actuality, funding cannot and should not be a concern for DHS or USCIS because your agencies actually collect, and keep the funds earned in the CNMI for the processing of all immigration visas. There is no net loss to the DHS budget, because PL 110-229 actually allows you to keep the funds and not return those funds to the CNMI. As a result, the fees you would collect on Tinian and Rota would more than fund the operations of an office for only six months on each island.

3. Development of "circuit rides" to the outer islands will not provide enough processing time for the outer islands, with only three months until implementation, which is roughly 12 weeks. How would it be mathematically possible to service the needs of the outer islands based on the processing time DHS/USCIS requires for various immigration processing and paperwork? How many "appointments" will USCIS be able to offer to the residents of Tinian or Rota when they set up a circuit ride? Ten? Twenty? Per day? Based on the population of employees that the Tinian Dynasty has alone, you are looking at 30 days just to go through the appointments, much less administer the applications submitted and this does not address the over 1,000-2,000 other workers and immigration requests that will require appointments as well. The amount of time necessary and the short time of attention offered to the outer islands does not make it reasonably possible to provide the service required to those residents. At the very least, DHS/USCIS is setting themselves up for failure and a huge backlog of immigration processing that would be predominantly from the outer islands. Which means we would be treated as second class citizens and an after thought of …."we'll get to it as soon as we have finished processing Saipan and Guam."

I implore you and your agency to do the right thing. Provide adequate, fair, and reasonable services by opening a temporary office for the residents of Tinian and Rota who as U.S. citizens and tax payers. We deserve nothing less.

Phillip Mendiola-Long
President and chairman
Tinian Chamber of Commerce

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

See? I told you so!

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

As the hysteria over the U.S. economy, and its moribund stock market, flows through headlines, here's a fact for you: I warned you about this gig over five years ago.

So don't tell me you're not getting your money's worth out of the *Saipan Tribune*.

On Feb. 13, 2004, my column was titled "Stocks? No way, dude!"

I noted: "I'd sooner put my money on the Blackjack tables" than buy stocks. I wasn't telling you what to do; that's not my style, and I don't give investment advice. I was just giving you my own economic take on things.

Anyway, when I wrote that piece, the Dow was at about 10,737. Now it's at 7,271, near a 12-year low.

But that stuff is just an aside. The real issue here is economics. And, also in my Feb. 13, 2004, piece, I highlighted the fundamental issue: Toxic U.S. debt.

Yeah, it's all the buzz now, but I was on the case way back then. I said: "There's a huge debt crisis brewing in the U.S. of A., a ticking time bomb that may blow the entire world economy into smithereens..."

Got that? Over five years ago. Ha! For all the grief that small, independent newspapers get, I'd like to see a bigger paper that carried a prediction to rival this one.

Let's clear the air here: The only way to see if an economist measures up is to test his published predictions. That's the whole point of economics. I wouldn't want a weatherman who would only "explain" storms, after the fact, that he didn't predict, would you?

Anyway, back to the big picture, having seen the U.S. mainland situation shaping up over five years ago, I have to admit that the hysteria in the American press, and the fear rippling through the public, is, for all the notional drama, boring. Nothing can change what has happened; that debt bomb had its roots in 2001 or so. All the arm-waving and shouting is spilt milk syndrome writ large. I don't even read it or follow it. It doesn't matter who gets a trillion here, or a few hundred billion there. What matters is why the credit bubble was built in the first place, and those kinds of discussions don't tickle the public interest, so you're not likely to hear them.

As far as the CNMI's tourism markets are concerned, sure, Asia is getting whacked by the financial ripples, but, again, that was easy to see coming. But that's not the issue. The issue is fundamental productive capacity, and the Asian economies that have free enough markets, and small enough debts, will probably be able to roll with the punches. That's going to be the big story of the coming years, and I'll be on the case. There's a lot of opportunity in this gig, and some folks on Saipan will be in good positions to take advantage of that action. It will take a few years, or maybe even a decade, for this to sort itself out.

In the meantime, though, anything, and I mean anything at all, can happen. The reason is that so many trillions of dollars are being thrown around that they will distort markets in ways that can't be entirely foreseen. When credit markets are being hit with hammers, you can't tell which way the shards will fall. But I can assure you they'll be sharp. Again, I don't sweat these details; I just avoid the whole mess entirely. You won't find me taking wild rides on the back of the liquidity surges and shortages; there's too much randomness. Markets will take wild rides unconnected to economic fundamentals.

I can't resist saying it again: Thanks to the *Saipan Tribune*'s independent voice, you had five years' warning for the biggest economic story since the Great Depression.

Letters to the Editor

Defense of our borders

So emotional it has become, this dilemma of U.S. federalization versus the CNMI Covenant. How valid is the growing fear that come June 1, 2009, the Department of Homeland Security's takeover of the Commonwealth's immigration will effectively demolish tourism dollars by barring Russian and Red China tourists from visiting our islands?

We all know that answer.

That's followed by another stinger: Ousting foreign workers (currently employed in the menial jobs locals don't want) to return to their point of origin, thereby gutting our labor force. So if the locals won't, who will do the menial jobs? And the other political hot potato, that being the contention of "local self government" (by losing control over immigration and effectively, labor) versus the fed's mandate to protect the borders and the citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands while building up its massive military forces throughout the Mariana chain of islands. Arguments will be emotionally voiced while opinions will naturally differ, but all together now: What'll happen to a once thriving community called the CNMI?

Pack your bags.

There exists, however, another side to the predicament as witnessed by Guam's boast of an *"exciting and historic time for Guam as we prepare our people for an unprecedented era of prosperity,"* while the CNMI bemoans its bleak future. But one thing is for certain: the mushrooming threat of terrorists with weapons of mass destruction, and the potential of a rogue nation(s) attacking a U.S community accelerates the need to guard our borders. But whether steeped in criticism or praise, there is more to the military buildup and the takeover by the feds than most islanders can comprehend. All of this demands a hard-nosed clarity and stark awakening that the forthcoming changes are not make-believe.

For the simplest case in point, let's examine Stalinist North Korea 2,000 miles north of our shores. The communist country is about to test-fire its long range missile, the Taepodong-2. The same missile failed in 2006, but will it fail today? With or without being nuclear-tipped?

According to a 2008 Defense White Paper by the Ministry of National Defense, the missile is thought to have an intended range of about 4,200 miles (6,700 kilometers), which, if true, could give it the capability of striking Alaska or Hawaii—and the Marianas. All this comes with the deployment of new medium-range ballistic missiles to bolster its naval forces and 1.2 million-strong military, while expanding special forces training (following U.S. military tactics in Iraq and Afghanistan) during 2008.

Like the jihadist Muslims around the globe bent on the destruction of Americans and Zionists, are these the kind of people we wish to visit our shores? I don't think so. And viewed in the whole, Red China and Russia, both being communist nations bordering the Pacific Ocean, forebode that same fear.

Now let's hear it from former U.S. President Bush. Before departing the office of the U.S presidency, and speaking before a Joint Session of Congress, he underscored the real threat to Americans everywhere:

"We will direct every resource at our command—every means of diplomacy, every tool of intelligence, every instrument of law enforcement, every financial influence, and every necessary weapon of war—to the disruption and to the defeat of the global terror network. I will not yield; I will not rest; I will not relent in waging this struggle for freedom and security for the American people."

Whatever history's ultimate judgment, in that moment, President Bush set the standard for his Presidency: to protect Americans from another 9/11 suicidal attack and hit Islamist terrorists and their sponsors abroad. By his own standard, Mr. Bush achieved the one big thing he and all Americans demanded of his Administration: not a single man, woman or child has been killed by terrorists on U.S. soil since that morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

So what's the end game of why the U.S. is taking over our borders? Defense. To defend us from attack, pure and simple. And how close is the Marianas to this menace? Look no further than what lies 1,500 west of the islands. After several years of assistance by the U.S. military quelling terrorists attacks in the Philippines, a revitalized breed of Abu Sayyaf has once again emerged and beheadings, bombings, and kidnappings are on the increase. Or Iran, half a world away, a country which is nearing its own nuclear capability and whose repercussions can be felt in our Pacific-Asia region, as well.

For the Mariana Islands the clock is ticking. Today there exists tremendous forces exerted by jihadist terrorists or rogue nations that lie far beyond our reasoning or control. We can only hope DHS and the buildup of the military forces on Guam, Tinian and Saipan is enough and in time to defuse what could become a Mariana Islands 9/11.

Lee Andersen
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Inaccurate reporting

On Feb. 24, 2009, the *Tribune* printed a story titled "Some NMC staff were improperly terminated." In the first sentence of the story, the reporter wrote "Rep. Heinz Hofschneider disclosed yesterday the names of personnel who, according to him, were improperly terminated by the Northern Marianas College, resulting in the institution settling cases for thousands of dollars."

In the second sentence, the reporter wrote, "Hofschneider, in a letter to NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez on Friday, said that serious management issues threaten to undermine NMC's ability to provide education according to the guidelines provided by a formal accreditation process."

The newspaper allowed its reporter to make a false statement in its lead sentence and link it to a true fact in its next sentence giving the reader the impression that the article is true when the article is full of deliberately misleading and outright false statements. The *Tribune* published a piece that identifies certain individuals as lacking qualifications for the jobs they hold and pins this on Rep. Hofschneider. But the newspaper did not get those names from Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider; the reporter used an anonymous two-page document that was provided to the newspaper, but falsely suggests that the details were provided by Hofschneider.

This disclosure hurt people who could end up being completely innocent for no reason whatsoever.

The facts are Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider did write a letter to NMC president Carmen Fernandez expressing his concern over problems brewing at the college. There is no mention of any person in this letter and there were no revelations either.

There really is no place in any community for this degree of disregard in the media. Innocent people can get hurt. This is why there are basic rules in journalism. The reporter deliberately printed a story mixing anonymous material with a letter and represents that the letter states what is in the anonymous material. That is plain wrong and false.

This is an election year and there are some, maybe at the college or outside of the college, who have taken advantage of this situation and hurt people in the process. In this election, let's try to avoid getting nasty. There are real issues to fight over, but people should stick to the facts, and this is especially true of newspapers.

Let me say that I support Heinz S. Hofschneider and Arnold I. Palacios in this gubernatorial election, and that I have family and friends who were adversely affected by the *Tribune* story. Let's fight hard on issues, let's not get nasty or disrespectful.

Juan S. Tenorio (Santiago)
Airport Road, Lower Dandan

Where are the benefits?

It has been nearly two months since former President Bush declared the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. As promised, the monument resulted in worldwide attention for the natural wonders of the Marianas. News outlets in countries as far away and as diverse as Kuwait, Zimbabwe, Fiji, England, and Japan gave our monument room on their pages. The Marianas garnered more positive press in the first half of January than we have in the last 10 years. This attention will help us solidify a reputation as an eco-friendly tourist destination.

It is now time for us to turn our attention toward getting the other benefits promised when the monument was declared. Specifically, the Bush Administration promised us a visitors' center, federal jobs, and an enforcement/research boat. We can we expect to get those benefits? Can the construction of a visitors' center be considered part of Obama's stimulus plan?

A visitors' center will improve our ability to attract tourists. It would serve as an additional attraction for our tourists, plus our local children would gain educational benefits from its creation. The sooner the process to build a visitors' center begins, the better.

When I agreed to support the monument, it was with the understanding that there would be benefits for the CNMI. I am very worried that these benefits will end up in Guam.

Agnes M. McPhetres
San Vicente, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°

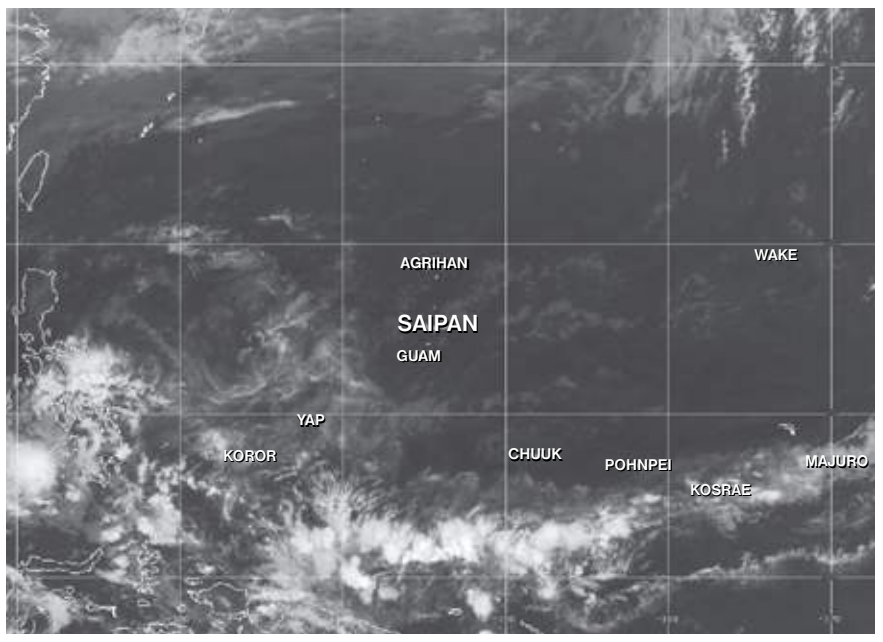
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼74
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲73	▼60
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼30
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼68
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲72	▼66
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲54	▼41
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲68	▼52
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲92	▼74
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲96	▼65
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼65
New York	Showers	▲53	▼36
Osaka	Showers	▲52	▼43
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲50	▼44
Pusan	Rain	▲55	▼37
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼41
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲46	▼33
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲61	▼49
Seoul	Cloudy	▲48	▼28
Tokyo	Rain	▲48	▼39
Washington, DC	Showers	▲58	▼39

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, FEB. 26, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends from 3N130E eastward to end near 2N145E. Convergent low-level winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of a line from 5N130E to 4N140E to 4N146E. These showers are south of Koror, Palau, and Yap. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in two areas. The first area is south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 5N from 151E to 158E. The second area is near Majuro within 150 miles of a line from 6N169E to 9N175E. Strong upper-level divergence is east of Wake Island. Areas of heavy cloud cover along with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found east of a line from 10N175E to 18N172E to 25N175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:04 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:13 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:33 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
9:17 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Monday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Tuesday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:40 AM	8:13 PM
Saturday	8:18 AM	9:06 PM
Sunday	8:59 AM	10:02 PM
Monday	9:44 AM	11:01 PM
Tuesday	10:34 AM	

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

CUC DISCONNECTION SCAM

Ex-CUC supervisor gets 3 yrs. in prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona has imposed a three-year prison term on former Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Credit and Collections Division supervisor Elaine Quitugua Terlaje for her involvement in a disconnection scam.

"This whole conspiracy that lasted for years could not have been possible without Ms. Terlaje's involvement and permission," said Manglona in a written order issued yesterday.

The judge sentenced Terlaje to five years in prison, all suspended except for three years, for violating the Commonwealth Utilities Code.

Manglona said the defendant shall not be eligible for parole until she has served at least two years in prison, has made full restitution, and has complied with all the terms of the plea agreement.

The 33-year-old Terlaje was given credit for the 36 hours she has already served in jail.

Manglona ordered the former CUC supervisor to start serving her prison term at the Department of Correction once the court sets the amount Terlaje will pay CUC.

Based on the evidence presented, Manglona ordered Terlaje to pay the minimum amount of $50,000 in total restitution up to the maximum amount of $100,000. The defendant was also directed to pay a $250 fine and a $100 court assessment fee.

Terlaje was placed on five years of supervised probation. She was required to assist and cooperate in the preparation of any prosecution or collections actions undertaken by the CNMI government against CUC account holders or employees, named or unnamed in this case.

Manglona permanently barred Terlaje from re-employment with CUC and required her to write a letter of apology to CUC and CNMI citizens and have it published in local newspapers.

Manglona ordered Terlaje to return to court on March 18, 2009 at 1:30pm for the restitution hearing.

Authorities arrested Terlaje and four other CUC employees on May 24, 2007, for allegedly conspiring to reconnect disconnected accounts or not disconnecting delinquent accounts in exchange for cash.

Terlaje and counsel, Mark B. Hanson, signed a plea agreement with the government. During Wednesday's change of plea hearing, Special Assistant Attorneys General Joseph Przyuski and William Downer appeared for the government.

Terlaje pleaded guilty to the offense of violating the Commonwealth Utilities Code as charged in the third amended information.

In exchange, the prosecutors agreed to move to dismiss with finality the conspiracy and theft of service charges against the defendant.

Manglona accepted Terlaje's guilty plea and the agreement. At the hearing, the defendant was given the opportunity to address the court before the imposition of sentence, but she chose not to.

Knowing the facts in the case, Manglona said she had a difficult time accepting the plea agreement because of the prison term.

Manglona noted that the agreed upon sentence is more lenient than what the government had argued against the remaining co-defendant, Francisco F. Faisao.

Faisao is facing an open sentence even though he was the line crew disconnection who answered to Terlaje.

According to Faisao's statements and other testimony that came out at trial, Terlaje made it possible for Faisao to avoid having his own power disconnected when it should have been disconnected, Manglona said.

The judge said that, at the prior change of plea hearing, she was initially unwilling to accept a sentence that was more lenient than those who answered to Terlaje.

The prosecution, Manglona said, thereafter asked the court to consider their concerns in maximizing their limited resources available in their office.

Furthermore, the prosecution said that Terlaje's guilty plea supports some mitigation in lieu of imposing the maximum sentence.

Manglona agreed that Terlaje's acceptance of her liability for committing the offense is a step toward her rehabilitation.

The prosecution and the defense submitted an amended plea agreement wherein the restitution amount was more defined. The new agreement included a new requirement that Terlaje assist and cooperate in the preparation of any prosecution undertaken by the government against other CUC account holders or employees.

At a minimum, the judge said, it may encourage others engaged in these acts to cease immediately.

By imposing the agreed upon prison term, Manglona said the defendant is subjected to the most serious prison sentence thus far among all the defendants.

Terlaje is the last of five defendants to be convicted of a crime in the scam.

Former CUC disconnection crew Ricardo C. Sablan pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office. Former customer service representative Rita I. Tarope and former disconnection crew Joaquin Elameto Norita pleaded guilty to violating the CUC Code. Faisao was found guilty after a bench trial for violating the CUC Code.

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?
GOOD NEWS TO ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS:
To order just dial 288-2288, Payment can be through credit card authorization, or cashier check, postal money order, traveler's check sent thru Freedom Air/ SN-5.
PAINT & PAINT PRODUCTS
SPECTRUM: Premium quality paints for the tropics. A UNIQUE SUPERBRAND PAINT!
Flat white latex paint: $55.00/pail
Semi-gloss white latex paint: $68.00/pail
Flat white enamel paint: $68.00/pail
Semi-gloss white enamel paint: $68.00/pail
Gloss white enamel paint: $68.00/pail
(16 liters or 4.25 gallons = 1 Pail)
PROMOTION: FREE GIVEAWAY FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF PAINTS.
1) $100.00 & ABOVE: 2 SOAP HOLDER
2) $400.00 & ABOVE: SHOWER ROOM DOOR WORTH $132.00
3) $600.00 & ABOVE: 1 WATERCLOSET WORTH $178.00
FLAT LATEX $14.00/Gallon
SEMI-GLOSS LATEX $16.00/Gallon
ON SALE ALL PAINT ACCESSORIES!
CERAMIC TILES
NEW ARRIVAL OF CERAMIC TILES,
12"*12" = $0.79/pc.
8"*12" = $0.52/pc.
FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF CERAMIC TILES WORTH $600.00, GET 1 PAIL TILE ADHESIVE (HENRY 314) FOR FREE
OTHERS
CEMENT $6.30/BAG
FOR OVER 30 BAGS
$3.00 PER BAG DELIVERY CHARGE TO TINIAN
HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU)
4"-$0.50/pc • 6"-$0.60/pc • 8"-$0.70/pc
REBAR-$920.00/SHORT TON
WATERCLOSET $78 UP • SINK $29 UP
GALVALUME ROOF TIN G26 FROM KOREA, BETTER QUALITY & RUST RESISTANCE
25%OFF FOR 2X6 & 2X8 UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR & TREATED
40%OFF FOR OVERSIZED AND DAMAGED MAHOGANY LUMBER
2*4*20 REGULAR: $6.60
2*4*20 TREATED: $11.25
UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR
2X4X12 - $3.80
2X4X14 - $4.60
2X4X16 - $5.10
2X4X18 - $5.80
2X4X20 - $6.40
2X6X12 - $6.90
2X6X14 - $7.90
2X6X16 - $8.90
2X6X18 - $9.90
2X6X20 - $10.90
UTILITY LUMBER TREATED
2X4X12 - $6.30
2X4X14 - $7.30
2X4X16 - $8.70
2X4X18 - $9.70
2X4X20 - $10.70
2X6X12 - $10.20
2X6X14 - $12.20
2X6X16 - $14.20
2X6X18 - $15.20
2X6X20 - $17.20
JOINT COMPOUND $19.90/5GALS
ABS PIPE 4" $39.50
5/8" FLYFORM: $24.50
TILE ADHESIVE HENRY 314 $38.00/4 Gals
GYPSUM BOARD: 1/2" $10.20 - 5/8" $15.90
15% TO 50% OFF ALL DAMAGED ITEMS
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
Never satisfied until you are
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:gddc@pticom.com
Business hours:
Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA

MICROL TOYOTA
SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

2003 EXPRESS VAN
Auto, White, Stock: R08-017F
License: BUS-1077
Mileage: 117560
PRICE $8,499
REDUCED PRICE
$5,399

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-022B	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	70447	AQUA	ADH-691	7,999	
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	
R08-023F	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	29549	RED	ACE-780	~~14,999~~	12,999
U08-090R	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	42193	BLUE	ACJ-553	11,399	
U09-001L	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	32900	WHITE	ACE-506	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
R08-020F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	50052	RED	ADO-831	~~15,999~~	13,999
U08-043P	2000	CELICA 2DR	MANUAL	72097	BLUE	ABZ-838	7,999	
R08-021F	2005	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	68931	RED	ACD-510	~~9,999~~	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	~~9,999~~	7,299
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
U08-067P	1995	LEXUS LS400	AUTO	24762	WHITE	ABS-062	~~11,399~~	7,599
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	6,999
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
GM VAN								
R09-002F	2005	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	101951	WHITE	BUS-1231	9,999	
U08-092L	2005	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	78403	WHITE	BUS-1201	~~10,999~~	8,999
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799

MICROL TOYOTA
Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com
TOYOTA ACDelco

Salas promises to pay his two ex-workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former congressman and Labor deputy secretary Andrew S. Salas has promised that he will pay his two former alien workers.

In an interview with Saipan Tribune, Salas said his company, Da Kine Inc. is now dissolved, but that he has always stated in every Labor hearing that, as president of the corporation, he will see to it that the two cooks, Sammy R. Fabito and Alredo M. Lumabi, get paid for their services.

Salas, however, defended William Mott, who was the vice president of Da Kine Inc., from any wrongdoing in the case. He said Mott came into the corporation after it was all set and done.

"So I think he should be exonerated from any wrongdoing because he came in after the fact," Salas said.

Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody has barred Da Kine Inc. and its officers, including Salas and Mott, from hiring alien workers after they failed to pay the wages of Fabito and Lumabi.

Cody said Salas and Mott may petition to lift the three-year bar once the settlement amounts, including liquidated damages, are fully paid.

Under the settlement, Da Kine is required to pay $1,633 to Lumabi and $3,309 to Fabito.

Salas told Saipan Tribune he is not going to appeal Cody's order.

Salas also defended his younger brother, Tom, from any wrongdoing in the case.

"My brother Tom might have misrepresented himself, but he did not mean any malice. He was just very eager to help his older brother," Salas said.

Cody said Tom provided false and misleading information during the course of the hearing.

Salas said he takes full responsibility in this case.

"Again I reiterate that no matter the corporation is dissolved, I will pay the monetary award on my own. The two victims here are those two cooks. And I will take care of them," he said.

Grand's Aoi to go Mexican

MARK RABAGO
Saipan Grand Hotel F&B assistant manager Fernando "Ding" Ureta, left, poses with Aoi Restaurant cook Gerald Maliwanag.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Mexican staples like tacos, quesadillas, burritos, enchiladas, and guacamole will share the buffet table with kadun pika, escabeche, beef and chicken kelaguen, and local style barbecue starting next week when Saipan Grand Hotel's Aoi Restaurant augments its authentic Chamorro cuisine with south-of-the-border fare.

Grand Hotel's F&B assistant manager Fernando "Ding" Ureta said beginning Monday, March 2, Aoi Restaurant's lunch buffet will offer Mexican cuisine alongside its very popular local dishes.

"This is just another exciting offer from the Grand. We continue to think of better ways to serve the exquisite palates of our guests—both local and off-island," he said.

Saipan Grand chef Danny Dela Cruz said Mexican food is known around the world for its intense flavors, colorful presentation, and unique spices and seasoning.

He said with its heavy reliance on the use of fresh vegetables as well as garlic and onions, Mexican fare is one of the world's healthiest cuisines.

"Introducing authentic Mexican dishes is just our way of promoting good health to the community," he said.

Ureta added that it is such a great idea to add Mexican fare to Saipan Grand's already delectable food lineup as he has always been intrigued by the way south-of-the-border cuisine combines meat, vegetables, spices so cleverly to create a sumptuous yet healthy meal.

In a way, he added, introducing Mexican food to Grand Hotel's loyal customers honors Saipan's rich history as well.

Like the Philippines and Saipan, Mexico was a former colony of Spain and the island was used as a re-supply port during the heydays of the Manila-Acupulco Galleon trade.

What's more important, Ureta said, the addition of Mexican fare to Aoi Restaurant's lunch buffet will not cost customers an extra penny. Grand Hotel charges adults $15 for the lunch buffet, but children 5-11 years old get 50 percent off.

And the saving don't stop there, Ureta said Grand Hotel is also extending 20 percent off to government employees in recognition of the tough economic times.

Local discount, meanwhile, continues at 10 percent, while VIP card holders and affiliate discount is 20 percent. Senior citizen discount is 30 percent.

Grand Hotel's lunch buffet is from Monday to Saturday, 11am-2pm. For reservations, call 234-6601 or 235-6616.

Income tax forms now available

The 2008 Individual Income Tax Return forms and instructions are now ready for distribution beginning Tuesday, March 3, 2009, according to an announcement issued yesterday by the Division of Revenue and Taxation.

The forms and instructions are available at the office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center from 7:30am to 4: 30pm. These forms and instructions will also be available on the Department of Finance website at www.cnmidof.net.

Revenue and Taxation also wishes to inform the public that its window service assistance for the filing of the 2008 individual income tax will be available beginning on March 3, 2009. Windows service will only be made available to those individuals filing a 1040EZ-CM. The usual taxpayer assistance will still be available to answer any general questions.

The deadline for filing of 2008 Individual Income Tax Return is April 15, 2009, at the office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation. The office will remain open until 9:30pm on Apr. 15 to receive tax returns. ***(PR)***

Soil & Water Conservation Workshop
& Sweet Potato Tasting

March 4, 2009
8:30am - 4:30pm

@ NMC-CREES Experimental Farm
As Perdido

For Reservation Call 234-5498 ext. 1705

NRCS ADAP

This workshop is conducted to further the Cooperative Extensions Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914
In cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Educational programs are open to all,regardless of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion or disability.

This program was funded by a CIG Grant #61-9251-6-726 from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Additional funding was provided by ADAP

Fitial testifies before Congress

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial testified yesterday before the Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee chaired by Guam Delegate Madeline Bordallo in support of the coral reef and submerged lands bills relating to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The submerged lands bill proposes to grant the CNMI control over the three miles of submerged lands similar to that possessed by Guam, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The governor reiterated his discussions with former Council on Environmental Quality chair James Connaughton about the need for a revenue-sharing arrangement that would apply to any mineral deposits found in the federal exclusive economic zone surrounding the insular areas. American Samoa Rep. Eni Faleomavaega immediately responded favorably to this suggestion. He stated that he intended to introduce legislation authorizing a study regarding the feasibility of producing mineral deposits (specifically manganese nodules) believed to exist in large quantities in the ocean waters surrounding the insular areas.

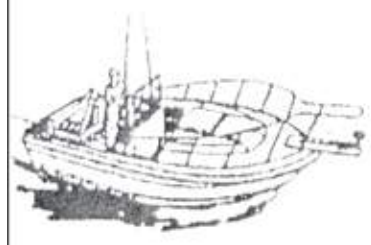
"I am pleased that the subcommittee looked favorably upon a mineral deposit revenue-sharing arrangement," said Fitial.

These hearings took place on the afternoon of Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009 (Thursday Saipan time).

In the morning, Fitial had the opportunity to meet with Secretary Ken Salazar of the Department of the Interior, who addressed the governor's comments at the Interagency Group on Insular Affairs meeting a day earlier. Based on Salazar's comments, Fitial is hopeful that the new Secretary will play an important role in ensuring that the enforcement of Public Law 110-229 will not adversely affect the Commonwealth's economy.

Later in the afternoon, Fitial completed his busy schedule with a meeting with Cheryl Parker Rose, the senior advisor and director of Intergovernmental Affairs in the Office of the Speaker of the House, Rep. Nancy Pelosi. Fitial discussed with Rose the two main issues of current interest to the Commonwealth—the scheduled increase in the minimum wage levels for the Commonwealth and American Samoa and his pending request for an extension of the effective date of Public Law 110-229 for 180 days beyond June 1, 2009. The Governor expects to have further conversations with the Speaker's Office in the near future. ***(PR)***

CAPTAIN'S LICENSE



ADAMS MARINE SEMINARS
www.adamsmarine.com
P. O. BOX 99
CRYSTAL RIVER, FL 34423
USA toll free tel. # 877-447-1950

U. S. COAST GUARD "APPROVED" CAPTAIN'S COURSE & TEST

O.U.P.V. (6 PAK) COURSE & TEST - TOTAL $945.00

Course Schedule: 7 DAYS: 8:00am to 5:00pm

PRICE INCLUDES: CPR & FIRST AID and ALL TEXTBOOKS & EQUIPMENT NEEDED

NO HIDDEN COSTS !!!

*** SAIPAN, CNMI - STARTS: SATURDAY - MARCH 7, 2009
Location: Pacific Island Club - Saipan

*** TUMON, GUAM - STARTS: MONDAY - MARCH 16, 2009
Location: Holiday Resort - Guam

ALSO OFFERING

100 TON / MASTER UP-GRADE COURSE & TEST - TOTAL $350.00

Master Course Schedule: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:00am to 5:00pm
*** TUMON, GUAM - STARTS: TUESDAY - MARCH 24, 2009

* ALSO, COMMERCIAL TOWING ENDORSEMENT CLASS & TEST AVAILABLE - $80.00

LICENSE REQUIREMENT

360 Days Experience in Boating for O.U.P.V. /// 720 Days Experience for Master Up-Grade
Attend the Course & Pass Adams Marine Seminars Test
CURRENT CPR & FIRST AID // DRUG TEST & PHYSICAL
SEND PAPERWORK TO THE COAST GUARD IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR LICENSE!

NO TESTING WITH THE COAST GUARD!! **** CALL NOW / SEATING IS LIMITED: ****
**** SAIPAN: Local Contact: Captain Norman Tenorio (670) 234-6267 (day)
**** GUAM: Local Contact: Captain Larry Klinehoffer: (671) 789-7234

CERTIFIED Used Cars

1 YEAR FREE SERVICE WITH USED CAR PURCHASE

DEALS OF THE WEEK

2001 Nissan Sentra
STOCK # 1L419771 2001
$6,995.00*

2007 Honda CR-V LX
STOCK # 7C073538
$19,995.00*

2004 Nissan Maxima SE
STOCK # 4C884688
$14,995.00*

2004 Nissan Frontier 4x4
STOCK # 4C416992
$13,995.00*

2004 Ford Explorer XLT
STOCK # 4UA51928
$12,995.00*

2005 Kia Rio
STOCK # 56395736
$8,995.00*

2007 Ford Ranger King Cab
STOCK # 7PA31120
$16,995.00*

2004 Nissan Quest S
STOCK # 4N344875
$13,995.00*

2005 Ford Focus SE
STOCK # 5W222614
$9,995.00*

2005 Nissan Frontier 4x4
STOCK # 5C411080
$19,995.00*

2005 Kia Sportage 4x4
STOCK # 57085101
$14,995.00*

2005 Nissan Sentra S
STOCK # 5L472573
$11,995.00*

Joseph (Jay) Cabrera
Sales Consultant
Visit or call 234-5562

2005 Nissan Xterra SE
STOCK # 5C615035
$18,995.00*

2005 Honda Civic LX
STOCK # 5H503419
$12,995.00*

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM
SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last.
* Vehicles Certified with 61 point inspection.

Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

TO SAVE ON FUEL EXPENSES

DPS to re-activate bike patrols

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is planning to re-activate its bike patrol units in Garapan to save the government fuel expenses.

Nine police officers and four Commonwealth Ports Authority police officers have been undergoing bike patrol training since Monday. The training is expected to be completed today, Friday.

Police Officers Jason Tarkong and J.J. Cabrera are training the officers with different bike obstacle courses at the parking lot of Duty Free Shoppers in Garapan.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday, Cabrera said that bike patrols do not consume fuel so the program will save government money.

Police Officer 3 Frank Pangelinan underscored the need for police officers to undergo bike patrol certification because DPS is trying to re-implement the bike patrol units in Garapan.

"These bikes can be utilized for crowd control in certain events—concerts, fiestas whatever the case may be where police vehicles are not appropriate," said Pangelinan, who is a shift supervisor with the Patrol Section.

Pangelinan said the bike patrol was not dissolved, but because some police officers resigned, DPS now has very few certified bike patrol officers.

"So when there is a reshuffle, we have the needed officers who are certified to be transferred there," he said.

Cabrera said they are using mountain bikes and the courses they are teaching are different.

"Safety is always a primary as police officers. We have a lot of tactical maneuvers. We have a lot of small moving maneuvers that we need to do, which is harder. We have obstacles—climbing and descending stairs," Cabrera said.

Pangelinan, who was one of the 13 trainees, said the program is not easy.

"You really have to get your physical well-being way up to par. Because just like regular jogging and riding a bike, it's rigorous…. especially when you have all these gears on and you are maneuvering obstacles, especially tight ones," Pangelinan said.

Cabrera said they incorporate the rules of the road in the training. "As a police officer we have to follow the rules of the road," he said.

Cabrera said it is easy for the officers to enforce traffic rules and regulations when it comes to vehicles.

"But do we know how to enforce the rules with respect to bicyclists? That's one of the things that we're teaching the officers during this course," Cabrera added.

JIMAR PIRO CORAL REEF ECOLOGIST – ID# 29078

Regular, F/T position w/ the School of Ocean & Earth Science & Technology, Joint Institute for Marine & Atmospheric Research, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) at the PIRO Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (CNMI) Field Office in Saipan, CNMI **Duties:** Assists habitat program manager & staff to enhance the mgmt of coral reef habitats throughout CNMI & the U.S. Pacific Islands. Assist in the implementation of federal mandates under various federal acts & orders. Facilitates & coordinates cooperative studies on coral reef & other related habitat issues. **Requires:** Bachelor's Degree in Fisheries Biology, Marine Affairs, Natural Resource Mgmt, Environmental Sciences, Zoology, Marine Biology, or a related aquatic science. 3-5 yrs of related exper which demonstrates knowl of coral biology, coral reef fisheries mgmt, &/or monitoring techniques. Exper w/ underwater survey techniques. Knowl of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Mgmt Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act, & other federal mandates. Knowl of the principles of coral reef mgmt, computer protocols for database devel & applications. Have analytical skills, oral & written communication skills & knowl of statistical techniques. Work independently in remote field locations or as a team leader. Obtain SCUBA certification (NAUI, PADI, etc.) & meet the standards established by the program's diver certification process. Conduct fish/coral transects. **Inquiries: Nicole Wakazuru 956-9465 (Oahu). Closing: Tentative 03/06/09. Check RCUH website for official closing date. Min Sal: Commensurate w/qualifications.**

Manta Ray Band to defend title in Tumon Bay's Music Festival

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 40 students from defending champion Saipan Southern High School will be traveling to Guam next week to defend its title in the Tumon Bay Music Festival.

The school's Manta Ray Band, mostly composed of sophomores and juniors, will perform more difficult pieces of music that are expected to wow the crowd from various schools in the Pacific region.

The Manta Band ruled the competition in its first attempt in 2008, giving members the chance to perform at the Beijing Olympics last year.

Will DeWitt, the band's conductor and music director, disclosed yesterday that the school will be sending three different groups to compete in concert, rock, and string categories.

This year marks the Fifth Tumon Bay Music Festival, which will be held March 6-15.

DeWitt disclosed that following last year's competition, the school band has been diligently working on fundraisers for this year's trip, which will cost close to $20,000 for the entire group.

The cost excludes the festival fee of some $800 where international musicians and musical experts will give 90-minute clinics to participants.

The group also began practicing last year, which they later changed to a rigorous daily 6:30am rehearsal from Mondays to Saturdays.

DeWitt, who admires the students' dedication and commitment to their goal, said he hopes to bring honor, learning, and memorable experiences to the students.

Saipan Tribune learned that since last year, the group had conducted six car-wash campaigns and four special luncheons to raise needed funds.

On Tuesday, March 3, the group will hold its last concert fundraiser in the school's cafeteria to get the needed funding for their trip. Tickets are priced at $5 for general admission, while students will be charged $3. The show will start at 6:30pm.

DeWitt said the Public School System—through Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan—has contributed a significant amount for the group's travel.

"Without the incredible support from the school system and our SSHS administrators, this is impossible for us. We're fortunate that they have the same vision that we have and that's to excel musically and make this opportunity available to our amazing talented students at SSHS," he said, adding that "cash on hand" is pretty close to what they need for the entire trip.

DeWitt vows to give the best performance of the group in all three contest categories.

"For the concert band, we're playing pieces that are actually harder than last year. This year's band, though, is much more talented and much more capable of taking on those difficult pieces. So I am sure we're going to surprise people on Guam," DeWitt said.

Last year, the group sent 33 to the competition—all for the concert band.

According to Naomi Cabrera and Christine Santiago, leaders of the Manta Band, although there is some pressure in this year's competition, they still hope to win.

"I know the point is not always about winning…but doing what you love," Cabrera said.

Santiago said she's looking forward to a "great experience."

ESGR hosts 'Briefing with The Boss' today

Capt. Josephine Blas, public affairs director for the Guam-CNMI Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve announced yesterday that a "Briefing with the Boss" will be conducted today, Feb. 27, 2009, beginning 8:30am at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret on Saipan, with public and private employers scheduled to attend.

"This is the right thing to do and the right time to do it. Many of our employers on Guam and in the CNMI are uncertain and concerned over their responsibilities to their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. This informative briefing will provide employers answers to ensure compliance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, and suggestions on how best to manage their employees who serve their country in the National Guard and Reserve", said Blas.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. Contact Capt. Josephine Blas at 671-735-0456 or 671-483-0324 or Rose Igitol in the local ESGR Guam-CNMI Office at 670-288-5426 for more information on ESGR Employer Outreach Programs and volunteer opportunities. ***(ESGR)***

CNMI still popular with the Japanese

NMI shows growth versus other destinations

An analysis recently released by the Japanese government disclosing the number of travelers outbound in 2008 indicates some positive trends for the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority office in Japan, the government analysis shows the following:

■ Overall outbound travel from Japan is down considerably (by over 1,300,000 travelers) compared to last year and the losses are escalating.

■ Among all destinations, the NMI ranks 7th overall in number of arrivals from Japan.

■ During 2008, the CNMI was the only significant destination to experience growth instead of declining arrivals. After a first half of moderate single digit growth, the CNMI rang up double-digit growth in the last half of the year.

■ Among sites with large numbers of Japanese arrivals, Hawaii, Thailand, Guam, Australia, Philippines, and Bali all experienced declines, some severe and measured in double digit losses month after month.

■ Hawaii and Thailand, the number 1 and 2 markets respectively, were hit with especially large declines in arrivals, as was their smaller rival Guam.

"In the face of these sobering Japan outbound numbers, we see that Saipan, Tinian and Rota realized a comparatively better year in 2008 than other destinations," said Perry Tenorio, managing director of MVA. "Our promotional efforts and good relationship with travel partners in source markets like Japan, Korea, China and Russia were key to having a 2.04 percent increase in arrivals last year."

Tenorio also credited the commitment of air carrier partners in 2008 with the CNMI's ability to maintain pace and show small growth in the face of huge tourism declines elsewhere.

Despite the positive trend, MVA and the CNMI government are still concerned about recent announcements by Northwest Airlines/Delta to reduce air service from Japan. MVA is working with travel partners to recover the anticipated loss in airline seats scheduled to take place beginning in March 2009. ***(MVA)***

Lt. Gov. Villagomez waives hearing on motion

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court canceled yesterday's scheduled proceeding in the case against Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and his co-defendants after the parties in the case agreed not to hold a hearing on Villagomez's motion.

Villagomez

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson granted the parties' request to waive hearing on Villagomez's motion for a bill of particulars.

Villagomez and co-defendants James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos, through their lawyers, signed a stipulation with the prosecutor, assistant U.S. attorney Eric S. O'Malley.

Under the stipulation, the defendants and O'Malley informed the court that the pleadings for the motion for bill of particulars contain their arguments for their respective positions and that no additional arguments will be presented.

The defendants and the prosecution agreed that they waive hearing on the motion and that the court may decide on the motion without a hearing and without the presence of the parties in the case.

The superseding indictment charged Villagomez and the Santos couple with bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds, conspiracy to defraud and to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, and theft concerning a program receiving federal funds.

The new indictment alleged that Villagomez accepted a $15,000 bribe from the Santos couple for approving the purchase of Rydlyme, a cleaning and de-scaling chemical, for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The couple was also charged with bribery for allegedly offering the $15,000 to Villagomez. The three pleaded not guilty.

Villagomez, through counsel David J. Lujan, argued that the bribery charges are based on conjecture and speculations by the U.S. government. The Santos couple joined in Villagomez's motion.

In the U.S. government's response, O'Malley asserted that the two charges in the new indictment against Villagomez and Santos couple sufficiently describe the offense of bribery filed against them, according to a federal government prosecutor.

Bill of particulars refers to a list of written statements made by a party to a court proceeding, upon demand of the other party. The list sets itemizes details of a claim or defense.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of 1970 meeting set

The Marianas High School's Class of '70 will be having an organizational meeting on March 6, 2009, at 5:30pm, at the Bicol Pavilion, next to Kilili Beach. Be there! ***(PR)***

Prayer rally vs drugs, gambling set

There will be a prayer rally against drugs and gambling activities today, Feb. 27, 2009, at 4pm, at the Sta. Remedios Church in Tanapag, Saipan. Assembly place will be in front of Sta. Remedios Church. For more details, contact Fr. Ambet at 322-7254. ***(PR)***

Beautify CNMI cleanup on Sunday

This Sunday Beautify CNMI will do their monthly cleanup of the Garapan Tourist District. We'll meet at the parking lot of American Memorial Park at 8am. We will provide gloves and bags. ***(PR)***

Rota waters get green flag

The Division of Environment Quality has assigned a green flag to the waters of Rota after regular sampling showed no excessive concentration of fecal indicator bacteria that exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

The division took the samples from 12 locations on Rota this week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling.

Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4 and http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beachcloseweeklyresults.htm. Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, send an email to environment@deq.gov.mp.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Veterans' briefing and stress management briefing today

This is to let all combat veterans, their dependents and all concerned know that Catherine Illarmo, the Department of Veterans Affairs team leader/LCSW from the Guam Vet Center will be on Saipan today to give individuals counseling to combat veterans and a stress management briefing to all interested. Anyone wishing to see Illarmo may call her at 1-671-472-7161 or Ruth Coleman at the Veterans Affairs Office at 664-2650 to make an appointment. She will also take walk-ins.

For more information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military/ Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Wear red on Fridays

Show your support to military service members by purchasing a "Red Shirt Friday" today. Locally designed by Frankie Cabrera of 670 Rocksteady Shop, the front t-shirt includes "Familian Sindalu," which means "Soldier's Family" in the Chamorro language, and in the CNMI community "We Are One Family." The backside of the t-shirt features the United States' and Northern Mariana Islands' flags united as one. Sale proceeds will be donated to the American Red Cross CNMI Chapter, Armed Forces Program, to benefit CNMI servicemen and women. T-shirts are available at 670 Rocksteady Shop or online at nmi.redcross.org. ***(PR)***

WSR Family Fun Night this Friday

William S. Reyes Elementary School will hold its Family Fun Night this Friday, Feb. 27, 6pm to 9pm inside the school's compound.

For more information, call WSR principal Lynette Villagomez at 237-3541. ***(PR)***

UPAA CNMI meeting on Feb. 28

The University of the Philippines Alumni Association-CNMI Chapter will have a meeting on Saturday, Feb. 28, 5:30pm at the Filipino Workers Resource Center, (POLO/OWWA), 1st floor, Marianas Business Plaza (formerly Nauru Bldg.) in Susupe, Saipan . All UPAA officers/members and UP alumni are invited to attend. ***(PR)***

Taotao Tano officers' meeting set

This is to inform all officers of Taotao Tano CNMI Association Inc. that there will be an important meeting this Friday, Feb. 27, at 6:30pm. The agenda include critical public affairs and upcoming events. Call 256-8652 (TOKA) or 788-6764 for details on location. You can also e-mail taotaotanopres@gmail.com for information. ***(PR)***

Kagman Saturday Flea Market

Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents will be provided. Interested sellers can call 256-POST for more info. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the following:

One (1) Portable Pavement Striping Machine to the Tinian International Airport:

The equipment should include at a minimum:

1. **FRAME** Electric Welded, reinforced, heavy duty ALL STEEL tubular construction.
2. **WHEELS** Front – 3.00x5; Rear – 4.00x8; pneumatic tires; 5/8 and 1" ball and roller bearings.
3. **MATERIAL CONTAINER** Electrically welded 17 gallon or more, 150 psi steel tank, 10" ASME lid assembly. May also be stainless steel.
4. **POWER** Air cooled engine developing 12 HP or more. Must maintain constant traction up hill and down. Variable speed throttle provided. Electric starter, 15 amp alternator and 12 volt battery optional.
5. **COMPRESSOR** Twin cylinder non-pulsating, 18.5 CFR, 50% air reserve, with unloader. Force feed lubrication to all bearings.
6. **AGITATION** Paddle type.
7. **TRACTION** Must be air-circulated, with new type drive rolls or positive drive.
8. **SPRAY GUNS** Automatic, diaphragm operated, adjustable volume high speed types, square beginnings and endings, uniform application and perfect cross distribution, guns mounted on hinged side delivery on left side unless otherwise specified.
9. **LINE WIDTH** Variable from 3" to 18" but regularly set for two 4" lines, 4" apart unless otherwise specified.
10. **GUIDE PLATES** Air-curtains using exhaust gas to maintain keen-edged line.
11. **CONTROLS** Each gun controlled by separate control valve plus master control valve controls for both guns simultaneously. Each gun is separately regulated by all-brass solvent-resisting regulators.
12. **GUIDE** Adjustable, telescopic guide arm, suitable for chalk line or retracing with a 50" telescoping guide.
13. **CLEANER EQUIPMENT** ½ gallon automatic pressure cleaner mechanism with atomizing head. Flushes fluid lines and cleans spray head assembly of guns.
14. **BRAKE** Manual with easy reach of operator's right hand to keep machine under constant control.
15. **AIR HOSE** Twenty foot (20') air hose for stencil work.
16. **TRAILER** Sturdy riding trailer for operator with platform of no less than 12" x 24", mounted on two 3.00x5 pneumatic tired ball bearing wheels with a track of 32", with standard foot brake.
17. **REQUIRED OPTIONAL ITEMS** Intermittent skip line mechanism, paddle agitator, belt guard, transport trailer, 4" or 6" twin bead dispensers, hand gun assemblies, complete with hoses, right hand edge lining attachment, rotatable side delivery for curb painting, positive chain and sprocket drive with differential, air actuated clutch and hydraulic disc brakes, 18" airport side delivery, stainless steel tank and plumbing, electrical start engine and double tank for two color striping.
18. **DELIVERY** MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

A pre-proposal conference will be scheduled and held only upon request by proposers. However, attendance is not mandatory.

Proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, second floor of the arrival building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, March 13, 2009.**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the Ports Authority to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. For additional information, please contact the Executive Director at 237-6500.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 10, 2009

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF09-057

"OFFICE CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES"
OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2009 CLOSING DATE: MARCH 16, 2009

To receive the RFP packet, you may mail-in, fax, or email your request to:

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax No.: (670) 664-8080
Email: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF09-058

"GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES"
OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2009 CLOSING DATE: MARCH 16, 2009

To receive the RFP packet, you may mail-in, fax, or email your request to:

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax No.: (670) 664-8080
Email: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0907 or 0911 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0992

PUBLIC NOTICE TO APPEAR FOR INVESTIGATION

The following Non-resident worker and Employer is hereby notified to report to the Department of Labor, Enforcement Section, 2nd Floor, Afetnas Building, San Antonio, Saipan. This notice will serve as a "Proof of Service for the the notice to appear for investigation". For information , please contact Investigator Jeffrey T. Camacho at 236-0900.

Employee	Employer	Case Number	Date/Time
Valerie Joy Mapalo	Lillian D. Camacho	CAC#09-060-02	3/06/09 @ 9 AM

Failure to appear at your scheduled investigation shall be grounds for default and may result in the referral of affected worker to the Division of Immigration for their action and sanction against the employer.

Date this 19th day of February, 2009.

/s/ Jeffrey T. Camacho

HANNAM MARKET | KAGMAN MARKET

288-9290/3639 256-4989

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS

OPEN 24 HRS

Spring Special Sale

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 10, 2009

Clothing Special

$1 - $3

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SELECTED ITEMS ARE LIMITED PER CUSTOMER

- Quarter Leg Chicken — Limit 2 Case — SALE $16.99 22 lbs. / SALE $20.99 33 lbs.
- Sun-Land Whole Young Chicken — SALE $33.99/case — Limit 1
- Pork Spareribs — BBQ or Adobo Cut — SALE $15.49 20 lbs. — Limit 2
- Baby Ribs — SALE $12.99 10 lbs. — Limit 2
- Gusto Smoked — SALE $1.99 /lb.
- Beef Back Ribs — Limit 2 — SALE $24.99/20 lbs.
- Lotus Brand Rice — SALE $23.99 50 lbs.
- Diamond G Calrose Rice — Limit 1 — SALE $32.99 50 lbs.
- Royal Thai Lady Rice — Limit 1 — SALE $27.99 50 lbs.
- Salad Oil 5 Galllon — Limit 1 — SALE $26.99
- Milk Fish — SALE $1.39 / lb. $54.99/case
- Tilapia — 99¢/lb. SALE $37.99/case
- Ichiban — SALE $7.99 — Original — Limit 1 Case
- Spam All Flavors — SALE $1.99/each — Limit 1 Case
- Rits Soda All Flavor — SALE $10.99/case — Limit 1 Case
- Budweiser Warm only — SALE $24.99/case — Limit 1 Case
- Miller Lite — SALE $22.99/case — Limit 1 Case
- HITE Beer — SALE $14.50/case — Limit 1 Case

GROCERY ITEMS

- Hormel Chili (No Beans) — SALE $1.59 — Limit 12
- Hormel Corned Beef Hash — SALE $1.79 — Limit 12
- Sunflower Tuna — SALE 99¢ — Limit 12
- Sunflower Mackerel — SALE $1.49
- Coco Tuna — SALE 99¢ — Limit 12
- Coco Mackerel — SALE $1.29/each
- Ligo Sardines — Limit 12 — SALE 3 for $1.00
- Armour Vienna Sausage — SALE 59¢/each
- Ox & Plam Corned Beef — Limit 12 — $2.29/each
- Del Monte Kernel Corn — SALE 69¢
- Del Monte Fruit Cocktail — SALE $3.99
- Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce All Flavors — SALE $1.29
- Hosen Fruit Cocktail — SALE $3.95
- Black Label Luncheon Meat — SALE $1.39 — Limit 12
- Carnation Milk — SALE 99¢
- Golden State Vinegar — SALE $2.99
- Sugar — SALE $1.59/kg.
- Kikkoman — Limit 1 Cs. (6 bts) — SALE $3.79 1.6 lr.
- Fresco Cooking Oil — SALE $7.99
- Argo Cornstarch — SALE 79¢
- Excellent Rice Stick 80 oz. — SALE 99¢
- Vlassic Dill Pickles — $6.99 Whole / $5.95 Whole
- Chamorro Punch — SALE $8.99
- Seoksu Water 500 ml. — SALE $5.99/case
- Sunkist All Flavors — SALE $5.95/case
- Kool Aid 34 Qrt. — SALE $6.95
- Nestea 36 qts. — SALE $6.99
- Zest-O Juice All Flavors — SALE $1.95
- Morton Salt — SALE 69¢
- Ventura Mayo 1 Gallon — SALE $9.95
- Ajinomoto 1 lb. — SALE 99¢
- Tang 22 quarts — SALE $5.99
- Jin Korean Soy Sauce 1.8 Ltr. — SALE $2.99
- Kimchee Base 450 G. — SALE $4.95
- Folgers Classic Roast 39 oz. — SALE $7.99
- Dinty Moore Stew (Beef, Chicken, Meat Ball) — SALE $1.49/15 oz.

NON-FOOD

- Charmin Tissue 24 Rolls — SALE $5.99
- Bounty Basic 8 Rolls — SALE $7.95
- Toilet Tissue 10 Rolls — SALE $3.95
- Soft & Gentle 24 Rolls — SALE $8.99
- Jubilee Tissue 24 Rolls — SALE $8.99
- Korean Facial Tissue 3 Packs — SALE $4.50
- Cottonelle Tissue 12 Rolls — SALE $3.99
- Ariel 3 kg. — SALE $5.99
- Gain Liquid Detergent — SALE $4.99
- Suavitel 850 ml. — SALE $1.59
- Adult Diapers — SALE $7.95
- Joy Dishwashing Liquid 90 oz. — SALE $5.99
- Safeguard Bar Soap — SALE 59¢/each
- Clorox 96 oz. — SALE $2.99
- Pensonic Emergency Light with Fan — SALE $33.95
- Luvs Diapers Big Box All Sizes — SALE $16.95
- Suave Shampoo & Conditioner 15 oz. — 2 for $2.50
- White Rain Shampoo & Conditioner 590 ml. — 2 for $2.95
- Axxion Foam Plates 125 ct. — SALE $6.95
- Butane Gas — SALE $21.99/case Limit 2

FROZEN FOOD

- Chopped Ham — SALE $10.99/5 lbs. $17.99/10 lbs.
- Pork Riblets — SALE $10.99/cs.
- Beef Rib Finger — SALE $2.99/lb.
- Ground Pork — SALE $17.99/10 lbs.
- Ground Beef — SALE $15.99/10 lbs.
- Pork Butt — SALE $1.79/lb.
- Chamorro Sausage — SALE $3.99/pkg.
- Miller Sausage — SALE $14.99/pkg.
- Hoffy Portuguese Sausage — SALE $1.99/pkg.

Family Bag Special

Pork Hocks	$8.95
Pork Belly	$10.95
Pork Adobo	$9.95
Pork Spareribs	$6.95
Pork Chops	$13.95
Beef Stew	$13.95
Beef Backribs	$8.95
Beef Shortribs	$15.95
Stewing Chicken	$5.95
Quarter Leg s	$5.95

- Chicken Winggets — SALE $9.99/5 lbs.
- Bar S Bacon — SALE $2.49/pkg.
- Kam Yen Jan Chinese Style Sausage — SALE $3.49/pkg.
- Bar S Hot Links — SALE $1.99/4 pcs.
- Bar S Jumbo Franks — SALE $1.05/pkg.
- Dragon Raw Headon White Shrimp 16/20 — SALE $3.99/ 1lb.
- Turkey Tail — SALE $17.99/cs.
- Smoked Salmon Collar — SALE $25.99/10 lbs.
- Cut Crab — SALE $5.95/box
- Green Mussels — SALE $4.99/5 lbs.
- Vega Shrimp — SALE $4.99/lb.
- Marinated Milk Fish (Boneless) — $4.59/pkg.
- Marinated Baby Milk Fish (Boneless) — $3.59/pkg.

PRODUCE

- Potato (Jumbo) — SALE 79¢/lb.
- Orange — SALE 89¢/lb.
- Orange Cielo — SALE $3.99/lb.
- Cantaloupe — SALE $1.29/lb.
- Red Onion — SALE 99¢/lb.
- Onion — SALE 59¢/lb.
- Garlic — SALE 89¢/pack-4 pcs.
- U.S. Eggs Extra Large — SALE $2.09/doz.

EVERYDAY LOW PRICE • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST • PRICES CHANGES WITHOUT NOTICE

Business

Big banks face 'stress tests' from regulators

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration hopes to restore confidence in the nation's ailing financial sector by subjecting 19 of the largest banks to "stress tests" that will gauge whether each institution has adequate capital to survive a severe downturn.

Banks that need new funds will be given six months to obtain it from the private sector or, failing that, from the federal government's $700 billion bank rescue program, the Treasury Department said Wednesday.

Government officials haven't specifically said which banks will be subject to the tests, but under the government's criteria they would include large nationwide banks such as Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Wells Fargo & Co. The 19 largest banks hold two-thirds of the banking industry's assets.

Treasury officials said the new support will be provided through the government's purchase of preferred shares of the banks' stock that are convertible into common shares at a 10 percent discount to their price before Feb. 9. The additional financing will be available immediately if needed, the department said.

Camacho, Cruz, Terlaje BoG's newest VPs

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam recently promoted three its executives to the higher position of vice president.

Camacho

Cruz

Terlaje

Richard Camacho has been appointed vice president and Tamuning Branch manager. Camacho began his employment as summer intern before joining the organization fulltime in 1993 as a fulltime management trainee.

He has worked in the Saipan, Harmon, and Upper Tumon branches of Bank of Guam before assuming responsibility for the Tamuning Branch. An alumnus of Father Duenas Memorial High School, Camacho is a graduate of Aquinas College.

Also appointed vice president/Business Development manager, Marketing Department is Matthew C. Cruz. Cruz joined the Bank of Guam in 2005 as an assistant vice president/marketing officer, following employment with Washington Mutual and Countrywide Home Loans in Spokane, Washington.

A graduate of Eastern Washington University (BA, Business Administration), Cruz is the chairman of the board of the Guam Council of the Arts and Humanities and is a member of the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay, Guam Association of Realtors, Guam Contractors Association, Chamorro Artist Association, and Pacific Association of Professional Real Estate Appraisers. He is the Bank of Guam 2008 Employee of the Year.

Mark D. Terlaje will also now assume the position of vice president/Product Information Management Systems (PIMS) Department. With the bank for 10 years, Terlaje graduated from the University of Guam majoring in Marketing in 1999. He was the Bank of Guam 2008 Operations Manager of the year. ***(PR)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Gannett slashes dividend 90 pct, saving $325M

Gannett Co. is slashing the dividend on its stock for the first time in its history as the largest U.S. newspaper publisher finally succumbs to the financial squeeze that has triggered similar moves by its cash-strapped brethren. The McLean, Va.-based company said Wednesday that the quarterly payment will fall to 4 cents per share, a 90 percent drop from 40 cents—a level that had been maintained since October 2007. The dividend had steadily increased since Gannett made its first quarterly payment more than 41 years ago. With the reduction, the dividend will now be a penny lower than when Gannett made its first split-adjusted payment of 5.4 cents per share in October 1967. ***(AP)***

Saks reports 4th-qtr loss, TJX lower profit

NEW YORK (AP)—The recession may be kinder to value-minded retailers, but there's plenty of pain to go around in the results reported Wednesday. Luxury retailer Saks Inc. reported a loss and issued a downbeat sales forecast for the year as it struggles to hold onto its affluent shoppers, while off-price retailer TJX Cos. reported flat sales—but better profit than expected. Even bargain hunters are being stingy amid the widespread promotions and discounts. With a spending slump expected to persist through the year, both companies are preserving cash by embracing cost-cutting, including slashing inventory and cutting capital spending. Saks assured investors that it had sufficient liquidity to pull through 2009 and dispelled any rumors of bankruptcy. That sent shares soaring as much as 11 percent.

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB09-GOV-057

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the **ENCLOSURES OF ELECTRICAL CONTROL PANELS FOR WATER WELLS** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana.

Islands A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond. If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurers Clearance Certificate (ICC) issued by the Department of Commerce.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Hazard Mitigation Program and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from both OIA and FEMA.

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds with an ICC clearance. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:
- Construct Building Enclosures for the Electrical Control Panel of each Water Well located in the various sites of Saipan.
- Necessary relocation of power drop line/weather head connection into the building enclosure.
- Installation and provision of new control panels.
- Installation of underground conduits from the new control panel to the well.
- Installation of a new chain link fence around the perimeter.
- Where directed, construction of an exterior concrete pad, extending one foot beyond the perimeter fence.

A non-refundable payment of $100 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **February 13, 2009** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **February 27, 2009**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit is not scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and address to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 664-2279, no later than 4:30 on **February 27, 2009.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to local bidders per Article 7 of the CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations.

Sealed bids must be marked "IFB09-GOV-057". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 16, 2009**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 16, 2009**, and must be transmitted via facisimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 16, 2009**, and must be received no later than **March 25, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **March 26, 2009**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **March 16, 2009**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Lieutenant Governor and Contracting Officer

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the following:

One (1) Tractor Mower
For the Tinian International Airport:

The equipment should include at a minimum:

1.	STRUCTURE	Protective Rollover Structure with open cab and mechanical seat suspension system
2.	MOWER DECK	To include a fifteen foot (15') mower deck – mower deck to be winged type with three separate blades. Wings must be capable of being adjusted individually
3.	ROTATING BEACON	FAA approved colored rotating beacon mounted on roof
4.	RADIO	Mounted air-to-ground radio with headphones and microphone, mounted directly under roof of cab or encased for weather proofing
5.	COLOR	Airport yellow in color
6.	ENGINE	80 horsepower or more
7.	TRANSMISSION	Standard
8.	FUEL	Diesel
9.	CYLINDERS	4
10.	CHASSIS	4x2 2WD
11.	TIRES	FRONT - 7.50-16 REAR – 16.9-30
12.	MANUALS	Technical and Parts Manuals for both tractor and mower must be provided
13.	DELIVERY	MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

A pre-proposal conference will be scheduled and held only upon request by proposers. However, attendance is not mandatory.

Proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, second floor of the arrival building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, March 20, 2009.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the Ports Authority to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. For additional information, please contact the Executive Director at 237-6500.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 19, 2009

Happy Market

LOWER NAVY HILL 322-4989 • AS LITO 288-4989

WEEKEND SALE

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMP

February 27-March 8, 2009 • While Supplies Last!

EVERYDAY LOW PRICE – FRIENDLY SERVICE

PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE • WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITY OF ITEMS

MAJOR CREDITS CARDS ACCEPTED

LEG QUATER $20.95 LIMIT 1 CASE (33 LBS/CASE) $16.95 LIMIT 1 CASE (22 LBS/CASE)

WHOLE CHICKEN 30 LBS/CASE $33.99 LIMIT 1 CASE

PORK SPARERIBS 20 LBS/CASE $15.95 LIMIT 1 CASE

IRISH PORK BABY RIBS 10 LBS/CASE $12.95 LIMIT 1 CASE

ROYAL THAI JASMINE RICE 50 LBS. $27.95

SUNWEST RICE 50 LBS. $31.95

DIAMOND G RICE 50 LBS. $32.95 LIMIT 1 SACK

ICHIBAN ORIGINAL FLAVOR $7.99 LIMIT 1 CASE

SALAD OIL 5 GALLON $26.99 LIMIT 1

SPAM 12 OZ. ALL KINDS $1.99 LIMIT 6 CANS

OX & PALM CORNED BEEF $2.29 LIMIT 6 CANS

FROZEN MACKEREL 22 LBS. $19.99

SALMON COLLAR 10 LBS. $25.95

GAIN $17.95 120 LOADS

FAMILY BAG Special

Beef Shortribs	$12.95
Pork Chops	$9.95
Pork Belly	$9.95
Pork Adobo	$9.95
Stewing	$6.95
Beef Stew	$12.95
Pork Buttsteak	$10.99
Ham Steak	$9.95
Collar Salmon	$14.95
Mackerel	$6.95

NON-FOOD

- **Bounty Basics** 8 Rolls $7.99
- **Charmin** 24 Extra Strong $7.99
- **Joy Dishwashing** 90 oz. $5.95
- **Soft N' Gentle** 24 Rolls $8.95
- **Dawn Dishwashing** 90 oz. $7.99
- **Super Soft Table Napkin** 400 cts. $3.99
- **Foam Plate** 125 cts. $6.99 360 cts.
- **Bounty** 15 Rolls $18.95
- **Diamond Foil** 200 sq. ft. $6.99
- **Spoon & Fork** 51 ct. 79¢
- **Wonderful Soap** 1.5 kg. $3.50
- **Bounty Napkins** 200's $3.69
- **Top Powder** 3 kg. $6.99
- **Cottonelle Tissue** Reg 24's $7.99
- **Luvs Big Pack Diapers** All Sizes $18.95

FROZEN

- **Chicken Wingettes** /bag $5.95/bag
- **Bar-S Gusto Chopped Ham** $16.95 /10 lbs.
- **Bar-S Hotdog** 99¢ /lb. LIMIT 6 PCS.
- **Bar-S Hot Links Sausage** $2.99 24 oz.
- **Ground Pork** #10 lbs. $17.95
- **Miller Beef Franks** $14.95 /5 lbs.
- **Seaport Imitation Crab Meat** 1 lb. $1.69
- **Chamorro Sausage** $3.95 /1 lb.
- **Ham Leg Bone In** $1.89 /lb
- **Chicken Nuggets** $6.99 /bag
- **Beef Patties** $3.99 /2.5 lbs.
- **Vega Shrimps** 16/20 $4.99 /1 lb Limit 1 Box
- **Portuguese Sausage** $1.99
- **Blue Bonnet Butter** 1 lb. $1.39
- **Pork Butt** $1.69 /lb.
- **Turkey Tail** 20 lbs. $16.95
- **Blue Crab** (2.5) $6.95 /lb
- **Green Mussels** $4.95 /2 lbs.
- **Beef Rib Finger** $2.89 /lb
- **Bar-S Bacon** $2.39
- **Peeled Shrimp** 1 lb. $2.99
- **Hokkigai Clam** $5.99 /lb.
- **Milk Fish** $1.49 /lb.
- **Tilapia** (4-6) 99¢ /lb
- **Dungenes Crab** $5.99 /lb.
- **U.S. Medium Eggs** $1.79 /1 doz.
- **San Pedro Squid** $1.89 /1 lb.
- **Seafood Combo** 1 lb. $2.29 /1 lb.

GROCERIES

- **Beach Cliff Sardines** 79¢
- **Armour Vienna Sausage** 5 oz. 59¢
- **Hormel Corned BeefHash** 16 oz. $1.69
- **Hormel Black Label** 12 oz. $1.39
- **Hormel with Beans** 15oz. $1.39
- **Hormel Chili No Beans** 15 oz. $1.59
- **Red Salmon** $5.95
- **Kellogs Grab 'n Go Cereal Pack** 8's $2.49
- **Tulip Luncheon Meat** $1.49
- **Campbells Chicken Noodle** 10.75 g. 99¢
- **Fresco Oil** 1 Gal. $7.99
- **Ventura Mayonaise** 1 Gal. $9.50
- **Carnation Evap Milk** Limit 3 99¢
- **Del Monte Whole Corn** 15-25 oz. 69¢
- **Sunflower Mackerel** 15 oz. $1.59
- **DelMonte Spag Sause** 26.5 oz. 2 for $3.00
- **Foremost Milk** Real/Low Fat $16.99 /cs
- **DelMonte Pineapple Juice** 2 for $3.00 46 oz.
- **Kikkoman Soy Sauce** 1.6 L. $3.79
- **Golden State Vinegar** $2.69
- **Kimchee Base** 450 G. $4.99
- **Ajinomoto** 1 lb. 99¢ Limit 1
- **Morton Salt** 69¢
- **Lemon Powder** $4.95
- **Sugar** 2 kg. $1.49
- **Real Fresh Milk** 12/32 oz. Regular Only $16.95
- **Carnation Coffee Creamer** 1 lb. $1.69
- **Argo Cornstarch** Limit 3 79¢
- **Gold Medal Flour** $2.99
- **Folgers Ground Coffee** 39 oz. $7.99 Limit 1
- **Coffemate** 35.3 oz. $5.99
- **Tang** 22 qtz. $5.99
- **Kool Aid** 36 qtz. $7.99
- **Chamorro Punch** 1 Gal. $8.99
- **Seoksu Water** 500 ml. $5.99 /cs.
- **Sunkist** All Flavor $5.99 /cs.

PRODUCE

- **Garlic** 99¢ /lb.
- **Ginger** $1.25 /lb.
- **Onion** 59¢ /lb.
- **Green Cabbage** 69¢ /lb.
- **Potato** 79¢ /lb.
- **Banana** 99¢ /lb.
- **Honey Dew** 99¢ /lb.
- **Orange Cello** $3.50 /4 lbs.

Nation

House OKs $410B spending, reverses Bush policies

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Democratic-controlled House pushed through a $410 billion measure Wednesday that boosted domestic programs, bristled with earmarks and chipped away at policies left behind by the Bush administration.

The vote was 245-178, largely along party lines.

Republicans assailed the measure as too costly—particularly on the heels of a $787 billion stimulus bill that President Barack Obama signed last week. But Democrats jabbed back.

"The same people who drove the economy into the ditch are now complaining about the size of the tow truck," said Rep. James McGovern, D-Mass., pointing out the large increase in deficits that President George W. Bush and GOP-controlled Congresses amassed.

From the GOP side, Rep. Jeb Hensarling of Texas said the legislation was "going to grow the government 8.3 percent ... but the family budget which has to pay for the federal budget only grew at 1.3 percent last year."

The debate occurred one day after Obama told Congress in a prime time television address that he intends to cut deficits in half over the next four years, and one day before he was submitting tax and spending plans for the coming year.

Officials said the president's first budget would call for a permanent tax cut of $400 for lower- and middle-class workers and $800 for families, a break modeled after the temporary provision in the economic stimulus legislation.

He also will seek $634 billion over 10 years as a down payment on health care reform, the start of an effort aimed at providing coverage for an estimated 48 million uninsured people. Achieving that goal could cost much more.

Obama also intends to ask lawmakers to approve a new cap-and-trade system of limits and pollution allowances, especially for industries such as utilities with coal burning power plants. The program would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions while generating revenue that could help finance other elements of an ambitious agenda that includes health care and education reform.

Republicans, Democrats criticize Jindal's speech

NEW YORK (AP)—Insane. Childish. Disaster. And those were some of the kinder comments from political pundits about Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and his response to President Barack Obama's speech to Congress on Tuesday night. Jindal, 37, a Rhodes scholar and son of Indian immigrants, is considered a rising star in Republican ranks and a likely 2012 presidential candidate.

GOP leaders, looking for a fresh face for the party's image, tapped Jindal earlier this month for the high-profile task of rebutting Obama's first address to a joint session of Congress.

But in both style and substance, Jindal's speech has drawn flak from Republicans and Democrats alike.

His criticism of government spending for emergency economic relief has been widely panned, especially given his state's receipt of billions in federal assistance after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. And Jindal's voice and earnest, awkward delivery have drawn comparisons to Kenneth Parcell, the geeky page on the NBC comedy "30 Rock."

Indeed, a new Facebook group titled "Bobby Jindal is Kenneth the Page" had already attracted more than 1,800 members Wednesday afternoon.

Republicans had high hopes for Jindal after his appearance Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," where he delivered a forceful, concise critique of Obama's $787 billion stimulus plan and explained his decision to reject some of the money allotted for his state. He also impressed observers when he spoke to reporters after a meeting with Obama and other governors at the White House Monday.

Jindal spoke from the governor's mansion in Baton Rouge, and critics pounced on his remarks almost immediately, panning everything from his overly folksy demeanor to his complaint that Obama's plan to revive the economy was "irresponsible."

Obama seeks $634B over 10 years for health care

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's first budget will seek $634 billion over 10 years as a down payment on health care reform, a senior administration official said Wednesday. The official said Obama's proposal is meant to start a dialogue with Congress over how to provide coverage for an estimated 48 million uninsured while also slowing health care costs, which amount to $2.4 trillion a year and keep rising even as the economy is shrinking.

The senior official spoke on condition of anonymity because the budget won't be released until Thursday.

Obama's request comes on top of recent health care expansions approved by Congress and also described by his administration as down payments toward overhauling the health care system. Those include $32 billion to expand coverage for the children of low-income workers and $19 billion to speed the adoption of computerized health records.

Aside from health care, the budget will extend Obama's signature $400 tax cut for workers, originally enacted as part of the economic stimulus plan.

The budget also calls for an increase in the top income tax rate, from 35 percent to 39.6 percent for couples with incomes above $250,000 a year, said another administration official.

The biggest tax adjustment, however, would come from updating the alternative minimum tax for inflation. That would add $150 billion to the deficit by 2013. The AMT was originally designed to make sure the wealthy paid at least some taxes, but it threatens to ensnare some 24 million middle- to upper-income taxpayers next year.

Obama has called on Congress to send him a health care reform bill this year, but even before the budget arrives on Capitol Hill, senior members of both parties say they are concerned about the cost.

Almost no one believes that Americans are getting good value for their health care dollars. Some experts say 30 percent or more of what the nation spends may be going for tests and treatments of little or no lasting benefit.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-OPA-055

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 25, 2009 • TIME: 4:00 P.M.

"FINANCIAL AUDITS OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE'S CREDIT UNION FOR THE YEARS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2008"

THE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS AUDIT MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR'S MAIN OFFICE AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M., OR FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE, SAIPAN.

ALL INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. ROSS ZAPANTA, ANALYST MANAGER AT (670) 322-6481/2 OR BY FACSIMILE TO 322-7812.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **MICHAEL PAI**
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DCCA/HPO-046

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 13, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"INSENTIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF 164 HECTARES (405 ACRES) OF THE CAROLINAS HEIGHTS REGION OF TINIAN FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HISTORIC PRESENTATION"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. **THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE HISTORIC PRESEVATION FUND GRANT AND NPS, AS WELL AS HPO.**

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MR. PEDRO (ROY) C. SABLAN, JR. DIRECTOR OF HPO AT (670) 664-2120/25 OR BY FAX TO: (670) 664-2139 OR E-MAIL TO proysablan@cnmihpo.com NO LATER THAN MARCH 4, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER **AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118** AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **CECILIA T. CELES**
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DCCA/HPO-047

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 13, 2009 • TIME: 2:30 P.M.

"DOCUMENTATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT COMPLEX, ON CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, AND PREPARATION OF ITS NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES AS A HISTORIC DISTRICT FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. **THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE HISTORIC PRESEVATION FUND GRANT AND NPS, AS WELL AS HPO.**

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MR. PEDRO (ROY) C. SABLAN, JR. DIRECTOR OF HPO AT (670) 664-2120/25 OR BY FAX TO: (670) 664-2139 OR E-MAIL TO proysablan@cnmihpo.com NO LATER THAN MARCH 4, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER **AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118** AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **CECILIA T. CELES**
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

RECRUITMENT FOR ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Administrator. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Zoning Administrator manages the Zoning Office which is responsible for processing permit inquiries and applications, maintaining record and data systems, inspecting and enforcing compliance, interpreting the Saipan Zoning Law, educating the public, staffing the Zoning Board, coordinating with other agencies, preparing updates to the Saipan Zoning Law and Board Regulations, preparing budgets and tracking expenditures, and preparing reports and grant applications (see Section 310 of the Saipan Zoning Law at www.zoning.gov.mp).

The Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 became effective on February 1, 2008. Since then, the Zoning Office has processed almost 3,000 inquiries and zoning permits. There is strong political and public support for the zoning program and a high level of voluntary compliance. The Zoning Board is committed to professionally administering the Law; maintaining close contact with elected officials, the public, other agencies and the business community; and adapting the Law to changing circumstances.

The minimum requirements for the position are a baccalaureate degree, but preferably a graduate degree, in planning or a related field, and five years of progressive experience in land use planning, comprehensive planning, or land use administration (CNMI Zoning Code § 7222). The maximum salary is $50,000. Health and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp.

Application submittals should be addressed to Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator, and must be received at the Zoning Office by March 27, 2009. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, US mail or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or IRs.

Send submittals to: E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp. FAX: 670-234-9666. US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, March 05, 2009 at 5:00 pm, Saipan Zoning Office, 2nd floor of Joeten Dandan. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
B. Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
C. Public Hearings. None
D. Contested Cases. None
E. Permits, Rezones, and Related Actions - Review and Decide
   a. Map 24 Rezone VR to VC, Lot 002 I 09
   b. Map 26 Rezone VR to VC, H315-R1
F. Old Business. Update on 2008-0302 LaoLao Bay Resort shoreline access report; Discussion on strategy for updating the Saipan Zoning Law.
G. New Business. Review new rezone proposals and approve advertising for public comment
H. Public Comment
I. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
J. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/01 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM REPLACEMENT
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-09
DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

REQUEST FOR INTEREST

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is requesting the attendance of all interested parties for the Design and Complete Replacement of the Saipan International Airport's Public Address (PA) System on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails the supply and installation of a complete PA system at the entire international terminal building of the Saipan International Airport.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held for this project at **2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2009 at the CPA Airport Conference Room**. All prospective proposers are required to attend. All questions prior to the pre-proposal conference must be submitted in writing to Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE, CPA's Executive Director, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to **cpa.admin@pticom.com**. The Friday, February 27, 2009 meeting will be used to familiarize everyone on what needs to be done, what the PA system needs to be to meet both CPA and airline requirements. A scope of work will then be designed to form the basis for all proposals.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 17, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/01 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-002-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for general improvements made to all restrooms at the international terminal buildings and upgrades to the water pump system at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of, but are not limited to, restroom door and fixture replacements and replacement of the water pump motor and controls.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 17, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GENERATOR BUILDING RENOVATIONS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-005-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for renovations and improvements to the generator building at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of, but are not limited to replacement of doors and door frames, facility hardware, louver motors, air-conditioning units, renovations to living quarters and roof repairs.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects;
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 10, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 24, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/01 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DRAINAGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS/UPGRADE PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-003-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for improvements and upgrades to the drainage system at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of roof repairs and diversion of the roof drainage system at the arrival, departure and corridors.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 17, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/01 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUTER TERMINAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for improvements to the Commuter Terminal located at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of roof repairs, renovations to the interior of the terminal and limited renovations to the exterior to the terminal.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 17, 2009

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK INC., Plaintiff, vs. RAYMOND DUENAS DIAZ, JENNY ARRIOLA DIAZ & JOSEPH ALDAN ARRIOLA, Defendants. — **Civil Action No. 07-0249E** — **AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 12, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following properties:

Lot 349 R 06 (formerly part of Lot 349 R 05, which was part of Lot 394 R 03, which was part of original Lot 349 R 01), containing an area of 1,000 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 349 R 03, the original of which was recorded on December 06, 1999 as Document No. 99-2880 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI, and

Lot No. H-316-18, (part of original Lot H-316), containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2065/91, the original of which was recorded on January 07, 1991 as Document No. 91-137 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI, and

Lot No. H-316-A-1, (part of original Lot H-316), containing an area of 1,049 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Island Survey Service Company Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 1008/75, the original of which is dated May 28, 1975.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on March 11, 2009, at the hour of 10:30 a.m. at the Law Library Reception Area, Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. **Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sale, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law office of James S. Sirok, 3rd Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, or mailed to him at P.O. Box 502145, Saipan, MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

e. **Minimum Bid.** Plaintiff has set a minimum bid in this matter at $200,000.00

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. **Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of James S. Sirok, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. **Court Approval.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted, and a Certificate of Sale will be issued thereafter.

d. **Removal or Storage of Personal Property.** The successful bidder shall have one (1) working day after court approval of the sale to remove any personal property purchased from the place of sale. After the expiration of this 24-hour period, the successful bidder shall bear the entire risk of loss of or damage to such property, and shall be liable for all expenses of caring for and/or storing such property.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 25th day of February 2009.

/S/ JAMES S. SIROK
Attorney for Plaintiff
Bar No. F-0124

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK INC., Plaintiff, vs. MANUEL QUITANO, CAMACHO, Defendants. — **Civil Action No. 07-0337CV** — **AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 12, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants, in and to the following properties:

Lot 002 G 264, containing an area pf 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No.002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, the original of which was recorded on May 14, 1990 as Document No. 90-1904 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, CMNI.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on March 11, 2009, at the hour of 10:30 a.m. at the Law Library Reception Area, Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. **Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sale, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law office of James S. Sirok, 3rd Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, or mailed to him at P.O. Box 502145, Saipan, MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

e. **Minimum Bid.** Plaintiff has set a minimum bid in this matter at $45,000.00

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. **Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of James S. Sirok, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. **Court Approval.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted, and a Certificate of Sale will be issued thereafter.

d. **Removal or Storage of Personal Property.** The successful bidder shall have one (1) working day after court approval of the sale to remove any personal property purchased from the place of sale. After the expiration of this 24-hour period, the successful bidder shall bear the entire risk of loss of or damage to such property, and shall be liable for all expenses of caring for and/or storing such property.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 25th day of February 2009.

/S/ JAMES S. SIROK
Attorney for Plaintiff
Bar No. F-0124

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK INC., Plaintiff, vs. JOAQUIN HOASHI BORJA, ANTONIO S. BORJA, Defendants. — **Civil Action No. 07-0338CV** — **AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 12, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants, in and to the following properties:

Lot 006 T 24, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No.006 T 01, the original of which was recorded on September 07, 1983 as Document No. 18011 at the Land Registry Office, Saipan, CMNI, and

Lot No. 057 T 126, containing an area of 10,000 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 057 T 03, the original of which was recorded on May 07, 1990 as Document No. 90-1771 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on **March 10, 2009**, at the hour of **9:30 a.m.** at the Reception Area, Superior Court, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. **Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sale, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law office of James S. Sirok, 3rd Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, or mailed to him at P.O. Box 502145, Saipan, MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

e. **Minimum Bid.** Plaintiff has set a minimum bid in this matter at $40,000.00

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. **Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of James S. Sirok, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. **Court Approval.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted, and a Certificate of Sale will be issued thereafter.

d. **Removal or Storage of Personal Property.** The successful bidder shall have one (1) working day after court approval of the sale to remove any personal property purchased from the place of sale. After the expiration of this 24-hour period, the successful bidder shall bear the entire risk of loss of or damage to such property, and shall be liable for all expenses of caring for and/or storing such property.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 25th day of February 2009.

/S/ JAMES S. SIROK
Attorney for Plaintiff
Bar No. F-0124

Asia

Bangladesh border guard mutiny appears to spread

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A deadly mutiny over pay that began with border guards in the Bangladesh capital apparently spread Thursday, with shootings reported at several guard posts around the country, police and witnesses said.

Mutineers fired shots at the commanding officer's residence at a border guard post in the southern town of Tekhnaf early Thursday, sending him fleeing, said police official Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury. Witnesses said violence also erupted at border guard posts in Cox's Bazar and Naikhongchari in the south, and Sylhet in the northeast.

The Thursday violence comes just one day after border guards mutinied at the agency's headquarters in Dhaka to demand better pay, but agreed later to surrender after the government said it would grant them amnesty and discuss their grievances.

At least three people are confirmed dead in the violence in Dhaka, but officials fear up to 50 people may have been killed.

The border guards in Dhaka began surrendering Thursday after a 20-hour mutiny that saw guards turn weapons on senior officers and seize a nearby shopping center.

Bangladesh's Home Minister Shahara Khatun received about a dozen automatic rifles from surrendering mutineers at the Dhaka headquarters of Bangladesh Rifles—the official name of the paramilitary border guards. TV reports showed guards filing out of buildings in the compound and laying down arms one by one.

"The guards have begun surrendering arms after we have offered amnesty to them," Khatun told reporters while leaving the compound, adding that he believed the surrender would be complete later Thursday.

He spoke before the latest round of shooting erupted in other cities. Some 42,000 guards are posted at 64 Bangladesh Rifles camps throughout the country.

The surrender in Dhaka later appeared to slow down, after the minister left, and government officials held a round of talks with mutineers outside the compound Thursday morning in efforts to speed it up, government negotiator Fazle Noor Tapash said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called an emergency meeting of her Cabinet to discuss the situation, her spokesman Abul Kalam Azad said.

S. Korea says N. Korea is likely to fire missile

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Senior intelligence officials told South Korean lawmakers Wednesday that the projectile being prepared for launch in North Korea appears to be a long-range missile, not a satellite as claimed by the communist country.

The assessment came a day after North Korea announced it was preparing to send a satellite into orbit.

On Wednesday, the National Intelligence Service officials told a parliamentary committee meeting that they believe the North was preparing to launch a missile because the object's shape "is similar to" the country's long-range Taepodong missile, according to the office of lawmaker Park Young-sun, who attended the closed-door session.

In 1998, North Korea test-fired a Taepodong-1 ballistic missile over Japan and then claimed to have put a satellite into orbit. The country test-launched a Taepodong-2 missile believed capable of reaching Alaska in 2006, but it plunged into the ocean shortly after liftoff.

Media reports suggest the missile being readied for launch could be an advanced version of the Taepodong-2 with even greater range: the U.S. west coast.

Earlier Wednesday, the North's state media reported leader Kim Jong Il visited the province where Pyongyang says it was preparing to launch a satellite.

The Korean Central News Agency said Kim met workers in Hoeryong, in North Hamgyong Province. Hoeryong is about 110 miles (180 kilometers) from Hwadae, the county where North Korea said it was preparing for a satellite launch.

Hwadae also is the site for the 2006 test launch of the North's the Taepodong-2 missile.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Australians brace for worsening wildfire weather

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Emergency officials warned residents in southern Australia that high temperatures, strong winds and lightning forecast for Friday could spark dangerous new flare-ups in the region's still-burning wildfires. Victoria state Emergency Services Commissioner Bruce Esplin said that residents of southern Victoria—where wildfires earlier this month killed more than 200—need to decide quickly whether to stay and defend their homes from the flames or flee to safer areas. "Don't leave it too late in the day when you can see fire. Make that decision very early and make it a very conservative decision," Esplin said. Exhausted firefighters on Thursday were still working to contain four major blazes in Victoria.

ASEAN financial gloom to trump rights issues

BANGKOK (AP)—The prickly issue of human rights in Myanmar will take a back seat to the global financial meltdown as leaders of cash-strapped Southeast Asian countries meet this weekend for an annual summit. Ducking the spotlight will be a relief for Myanmar's military junta, which has been busy locking up dissidents and has ignored U.N. demands to free its highest-profile political prisoner, the Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. For the rest of the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the financial crisis offers an opportunity to avoid the perennial dilemma of confronting its most troublesome member and other sensitive topics. Thailand, which currently holds ASEAN's rotating chairmanship and is hosting the summit, is billing the meeting as a turning point for the bloc that has long been criticized as a talk shop that forges agreements by consensus while steering clear of confrontation.

India charges Pakistani gunman in Mumbai attacks

MUMBAI, India (AP)—India charged the lone surviving gunman from the deadly Mumbai attacks on Wednesday in a 11,000-page document marking the beginning of a legal process that could lead to his execution—and raise tensions with Pakistan. Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, a Pakistani, was captured in the early hours of the attacks and jailed ever since. Nine other attackers were killed during the three-day siege in November, which left 164 people dead and targeted luxury hotels, a Jewish center and other sites across the city. The 21-year-old Kasab faces 12 charges. If convicted on the two most serious counts—murder and waging war against India—he will likely face the death penalty. Special public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam said he expected the trial to begin in coming weeks and conclude within six months—unusually swift for India, where the legal process can drag on for decades.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-008

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled proposals for the **Shipper / Receiver to coordinate the receiving, shipment / freight handling of instructional materials, supplies and other needs from US mainland, Hawaii and territories vendors for hte CNMI State Public School System (PSS).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-008" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 11, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-008, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

There will be a pre-bid conference for interested vendors on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the PSS Conference/Lounge Room on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill on the island of Saipan

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, extend the contract 2 or 3 times, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public Shool System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-009

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Construction of Generator House at various Head Start Centers on Saipan for the CNMI State Public School System (PSS).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3 rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-009" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 10, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-009, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

There will a pre-bid conference for interested vendors on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the PSS Conference/Lounge Room on the 3 d floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill on the island of Saipan. Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to MT. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: *babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.*

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License. The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, extend the contract 2 or 3 times, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-010

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled proposals **to establish and facilitate a Scoring Center in the CNMI State Public School System (PSS) statewide Standard Based Assessment.** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3 d floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-010" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 10, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-010, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: *babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.*

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License. The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, extend the contract 2 or 3 times, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System and approved be the contractor.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Request for Proposal
RFP 09-011

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Procurement and Installations of Typhoon Shutters at various Head Start Centers on Saipan for the CNMI State Public School System (PSS)**. Detailed information on the Scope d of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3 floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-011" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **April 07, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-011, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

There will a pre-bid conference for interested vendors on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the PSS or BOE Conference/Lounge Room on the 3rd for 2nd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill on the island of Saipan. All interested contractors must register at the P&S Office and a minimal fee of $3.00 will be assessed for the plan and the Scope of Work.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.***

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, extend the contract 2 or 3 times, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System. All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

World

125 people survive Turkish airliner crash in Amsterdam

HAARLEMMERLIEDE, Netherlands (AP)—A Turkish Airlines jetliner plummeted out of the mist and plowed into a muddy field Wednesday near Amsterdam's main airport, but nearly everyone on board—125 people—survived. The nine dead included both pilots.

The Boeing 737-800 was en route from Istanbul to Amsterdam carrying 134 people when it suddenly lost speed and fell out of the sky about two miles short of the runway at Schiphol Airport, investigators said.

The jetliner broke into three pieces upon impact: the fuselage tore in two near the cockpit and the tail was ripped off. Despite the catastrophic impact, the wreckage did not burn and scores of people walked away.

Survivor Huseyin Sumer said he crawled to safety out of a crack in the fuselage.

"We were about to land, we could not understand what was happening, some passengers screamed in panic, but it happened so fast," Sumer said on Turkish NTV, adding that the crash was over in 5 to 10 seconds.

AP

The wreckage of a Turkish Airlines aircraft is seen after it slammed into a field while attempting to land at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009.

Another survivor, Jihad Alariachi, said there was no warning from the cockpit to brace for landing before the ground loomed up through the mist and drizzle.

"We braked really hard, but that's normal in a landing. And then the nose went up. And then we bounced ... with the nose aloft," she said, adding that she and her sister scrambled out an emergency exit.

Palestinians seek $2.8 billion to rebuild Gaza

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—The rival Palestinian governments—U.S.-backed moderates in the West Bank and the Islamic militants of Hamas in Gaza—presented competing plans Wednesday for rebuilding war-ravaged Gaza, each seeking roughly $2.8 billion in foreign aid.

The moderates, led by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, believe they can raise the full amount at an international donors conference for Gaza next week in Egypt. The U.S. is expected to contribute about $900 million, and Saudi Arabia has promised $1 billion.

However, Gaza would need open borders and an internationally accepted government for reconstruction to move forward smoothly. At the moment, it has neither.

Hamas is widely shunned as a terrorist group, and Israel and Egypt have kept Gaza cut off from the world since the militants violently seized the territory in June 2007, leaving Abbas only in control of the West Bank.

In one scenario, Hamas and Abbas would reconcile, form a joint government and bring about an end to the Gaza blockade. Representatives of Hamas and Abbas' Fatah movement set a new round of reconciliation talks this week, but chances are seen as slim because of deep distrust between them.

In the absence of a unity deal, the rival governments have moved ahead with separate plans for rebuilding Gaza after Israel's three-week military offensive, waged to halt Hamas rocket fire on Israeli border towns. The fighting killed some 1,300 Palestinians and damaged or destroyed thousands of homes.

WORLD BRIEFS

Terror-linked lawmaker faces arrest in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—An Iraqi Airways jet carrying a Sunni lawmaker accused of being a terror boss was ordered back to Baghdad on Wednesday, but authorities could only watch as the combative legislator slipped away before fellow parliament members stripped him of his immunity. The boomerang voyage of Mohammed al-Dayni—whose flight was pulled back just as the plane was about to leave Iraqi airspace—capped days of friction between the Shiite-led government and the defiant lawmaker. Al-Dayni made one last blitz of calls to journalists and supporters after the Jordan-bound jet returned to Baghdad, calling the charges part of a campaign to muzzle critics. Then he was gone—just hours before parliament called an emergency session to strip his immunity.

Iranians in test run of first nuclear power plant

BUSHEHR, Iran (AP)—Iranian and Russian engineers carried out a test-run of Iran's first nuclear power plant Wednesday, a major step toward starting up a facility that the U.S. once hoped to prevent because of fears over Tehran's nuclear ambitions. Washington worried Iran would turn spent fuel from the plant's reactor into plutonium, which could then be used to build a nuclear warhead, and U.S. officials pressured Moscow for years to stop helping Iran build the electricity-generating facility. American opposition to the plant eased when Iran agreed in 2005 to return spent fuel to Russia to ensure it can't be reprocessed into plutonium. Russia is providing enriched uranium fuel for the plant in the southern port city of Bushehr.

Sierra Leone rebel leaders guilty of war crimes

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP)—The rebels were known for asking their victims if they preferred "long sleeves" or "short sleeves." They then cut off the hands of those who chose the first option and the full arm of those that picked the second. On Wednesday, an international court modeled after the Nuremberg tribunal convicted three top Sierra Leone rebel leaders of crimes against humanity—the closest thing to justice in this West African nation of amputees, orphans and widows. Revolutionary United Front leader Issa Sesay and one of his battlefield commanders Morris Kallon were found guilty on 16 of 18 counts, including mutilation, terrorism, rape, forced marriage, sexual slavery and the enlistment of child soldiers. Another commander, Augustine Gbao, was found guilty on 14 of the 18 counts.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Try at passing old $1,000 bill foils safe-robbers

TEXAS TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Authorities say an antique $1,000 bill proved the downfall of three teenagers on the run in Michigan. The Kalamazoo County sheriff's department says the trio stole a safe containing antique money from one of the youth's parents. The Kalamazoo Gazette and the Birmingham News say they drove a stolen van to Birmingham, Ala., where an 18-year-old tried to exchange the $1,000 bill Thursday at a Service First Bank branch. The U.S. Treasury stopped printing $1,000 bills in 1945, so the bank called police. Officers arrested the teen and two 15-year-old companions. They remained in custody Tuesday in Birmingham awaiting return to Michigan. They're from Texas Township, about 135 miles west of Detroit.

Court rejects NY doctor's bid over ex's kidney

MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP)—A court has rejected a New York surgeon's claim that he should get $1.5 million in his divorce settlement because he donated a kidney to his wife. Dr. Richard Batista has said he's entitled to the kidney compensation because Dawnell Batista was denying him visits with their three children. In a ruling Tuesday, matrimonial referee Jeffrey Grob (Grahb) says the kidney was a gift. It was donated in 2001, during happier times in the marriage. Grob says a wide range of items are considered marital property—but donated organs would not be among them. The doctor's attorney, Dominic Barbara, says he considers the ruling a victory for his client because the donation will be considered as a factor in the overall distribution of marital assets.

Police: Mystery object tears through Dallas roof

DALLAS (AP)—Police say an unidentified falling object dropped out of the sky with enough velocity to tear a hole through the roof and the second floor of a Dallas home. Senior Cpl. Kevin Janse said Wednesday the six-pound piece of metal with two drill holes in it fell Tuesday evening when the person who reported the incident wasn't home. Janse said there were no injuries. Officers couldn't determine the source of the debris. Janse said radioactive tests on the metal were negative. Several state agencies were notified of the incident, but Janse said none offered a theory about what happened. Janse said there were no reports of similar incidents in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Man's car stolen after heart surgery at hospital

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A St. Louis man is recovering after a heart attack and surgery, and after having his car stolen from the hospital parking lot. William Caggiano had the heart attack on Thursday and had heart bypass surgery. His daughter rushed back to St. Louis County from Arizona to be with him. At St. Anthony's Hospital, she met a woman in the intensive care waiting room. Now, Amanda Caggiano believes that so-called friend stole her father's car. The crime happened early Friday. Amanda Caggiano said she was sleeping. When she woke up several items from her purse were gone, including the keys to her father's PT Cruiser.

Duo allegedly steal about $250 from Brownies

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—A robber and his accomplice in a getaway vehicle stole about $250 from a group selling Girl Scout cookies, leaving one of the girls "devastated." Members of a Girl Scout Brownie troop and two adults were selling cookies outside a Walgreen's drugstore in San Antonio Wednesday night when a man walked out of the store and grabbed a bag containing proceeds from the cookie sales—about $250 and a check—police said. A woman driving a vehicle picked up the robber, and the couple drove off, according to police. The store manager, Patricia Grohman, told the San Antonio Express-News that she ran outside when she heard screams. "One little girl was just devastated, and she was very frightened," she said. "She had worked so hard to earn that money, so I just tried to calm her down and make sure she was OK." Grohman said Walgreen's customers have donated money that will be presented to the troop.

Farmer to take fight over bear carcass to court

BOYCEVILLE, Wis. (AP)—A farmer says he's ready to take his fight with the state Department of Natural Resources over a bear carcass to court. Neil Schlough said he was harvesting corn Nov. 26 when he realized he had hit an animal with his combine. He discovered it was a 700-pound bear. He called a DNR warden, bought a $75 tag from the agency and decided to have his "trophy" bear mounted. But, at the taxidermy, bullets holes were found in the hide. A man from West Fargo, N.D., later admitted shooting the bear out of season while hunting on land his family owned previously. Charges are pending. The DNR seized the bear as evidence. But Schlough wants it back. He said the carcass was legally sold to him.

NJ principal spots fire at teacher's house

TOMS RIVER, N.J. (AP)—She's not just a school principal—she's a rescuer. Principal Jill MacIntosh noticed flames shooting out of a garbage can as she drove to work Tuesday at Washington Street Elementary School in Toms River. It turned out that the fire was on the property of Wendy Yorke, a third-grade teacher at her school who is home on maternity-leave with her 4-month-old son. MacIntosh knocked on the door and helped get her employee out. The only damage to the home was on the exterior of the garage—though Yorke family members said it could have been much worse without MacIntosh. The fire apparently started after the teacher's husband Michael Yorke dumped ashes from a wood-burning stove into the trash can.

Angry passenger douses bus driver with coffee

LOWELL, Mass. (AP)—Police said a bus passenger angry about a possible strike that would disrupt his commute threw a cup of hot coffee on the driver, then ran away with the driver in pursuit. The Sun of Lowell reported that Debra Kemp, a driver for the Lowell Regional Transit Authority, told police the passenger was upset by a newspaper story about a possible drivers' strike. Police Deputy Superintendent Deborah Friedl said the man then doused the driver with his coffee at about 8 a.m. on Tuesday and took off. Kemp abandoned the pursuit, told her dispatcher about the incident, then finished her route before notifying police and seeking medical treatment. She was not seriously hurt. Friedl said the suspect has not been caught and apparently was not a regular passenger.

Science & Technology

Stop thief! Software lets stolen laptops speak up

SEATTLE (AP)—Stolen laptop? Now you can tell those thieves exactly what you think of them.

Front Door Software Corp.'s Retriever program displays your contact information as your computer boots up. There's even space for a plea to a Good Samaritan—"$50 for my safe return," maybe.

In most cases, that's enough to help an honest person return the machine, said Carrie Hafeman, chief executive of the five-person company based in Evergreen, Colo.

But in the darkest scenarios, Retriever takes off the kid gloves.

You can log on to a Web site and check a box indicating the computer is missing. Now during start-up, a big yellow and red banner appears on the screen, boldly declaring the laptop lost or stolen. This message is set to reappear every 30 seconds, no matter how many times the thief closes the window.

You can remotely switch on a second password prompt if you fear the thief has also stolen your regular Windows, Macintosh or Linux login.

Behind the scenes, Retriever uses built-in Wi-Fi to sniff out nearby networks, then suss out what Internet service providers power them. With that information in hand, Hafeman said, you can file a police report and get help locating the criminal.

While waiting for law enforcement to come through, you can even let off steam by sending new messages to the nagging "Stolen Computer!" screen.

"You are being tracked. I am right at your door" was one, Hafeman said, adding that she could not bring herself to say others that came to mind. Customers have also tried to induce fear or guilt by switching their contact info to "Secret Service" and "Catholic church."

The latest version of Retriever, which costs $29.95 for three years of use, is even more aggressive.

Now, when the "stolen" screen pops up, the laptop cries for help. Use a canned message ("Help, this laptop is reported lost or stolen. If you are not my owner, please report me now.") or record your own.

"You can say, 'Get your hands off me, you S.O.B.'" Hafeman said.

TECH BYTES

British company could deeply cut DNA scans' cost

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A British company's new technique for reading DNA could move medicine a step closer to an affordable gene scan for every patient. Oxford Nanopore Technologies announced this week that it had successfully tested a system that can read DNA directly. That approach cuts out the expensive equipment, chemicals and lab time needed for current scanning methods, said Dr. Gordon Sanghera, Oxford's chief executive. Many current scanners use fluorescent chemical tags that attach to each of the four chemicals that make up a "letter" in the DNA sequence. Sophisticated cameras and software read the tags to identify the genes. The system described by Oxford in the current issue of Nature Nanotechnology sends DNA one letter at a time through a microscopic, biologically engineered hole, or "nanopore." An electrical current passed across the hole responds differently to each of the four letters in the genetic code, allowing scientists to accurately read each letter.

Google pays for e-mail outage with 15-day credit

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP)—Google Inc. is making amends for an e-mail outage by giving 15 days of free service to businesses, government agencies and other subscribers who pay for an expanded version of the product. The concession is meant to placate customers who were cut off from their e-mail accounts Tuesday for as long as four hours. The outage began at 9:30 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time, causing more inconvenience in Europe and Asia than in the United States. Most people use the free version of Google's Gmail. The Mountain View-based company sells a more sophisticated version of Gmail as part of a software bundle that costs $50 annually per user. Google offered a 15-day credit to compensate for a less severe e-mail breakdown last August.

THE HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q: I'm taking my iPhone on an international trip and don't want to get hit with any roaming charges. How can I shut off the phone but keep WiFi on?

A: This is a good idea, considering voice calling can run well over a dollar a minute overseas—even for calls that you let go straight to voice mail. International data access is still more expensive, and AT&T Wireless's "Data Global" add-ons—starting at $24.99 a month for 20 megabytes—are no bargain either.

Fortunately, the iPhone's software blocks data usage on non-AT&T networks. To verify that yours still has this setting, tap the Settings application's General heading and then its Network heading; on that screen, the "Data Roaming" switch should be off.

To block voice calls too, the simplest remedy is to remove your iPhone's SIM (subscriber identity module) card. Take one end of a small paper clip and poke it into the small hole next to the headphone jack, and a plastic carriage holding this small card in place will pop out. Tuck the card away where you won't lose it, and your iPhone will be able to speak only WiFi.

■ ■ ■

Q: I know that some TV stations stopped their analog broadcasts on Tuesday. Do I need to do anything to get my digital TV ready for that?

A: Some stations making the digital transition before the federally mandated deadline—just pushed back from Tuesday to June 12—will be able to upgrade their digital signals once they take down their analog transmitters. So you'll want to have your TV rescan the airwaves for any changes to these channels.

To do that, press the "menu" button on the remote for your TV (or digital converter box) and click around until you see a command like "scan for channels" or "add digital channels."

■ ■ ■

The government recently pushed back the scheduled end for almost all analog television broadcasts to June 12, but stations can still turn off their analog transmissions if they want to. Hundreds of them plan to do so, including two network affiliates in Baltimore.

People with analog sets will need to buy a digital converter box or a new TV to keep watching those channels, but if you've already taken either of those steps, you still have a task of your own waiting. You'll need to have the TV or converter rescan the digital airwaves to benefit from the upgrades these early switchers can make to their broadcasts after shutting off their analog transmitters. To do that, repeat the setup work you did after first powering up your TV hardware: Hit the remote's "menu" button and select an item labeled something like "scan for channels," which should have a prominent spot on the menu screen.

■ ■ ■

If your Windows laptop seems to take far too long to go to sleep, then wake up and get back to work, it may be set to hibernate. In this mode, Windows saves the state of your system to a file on the hard drive and then shuts down. This saves power—sleep mode will eventually drain the battery, but a PC can stay in hibernation indefinitely—but going in and out of hibernation takes much longer.

For everyday operation, sleep (called "stand-by mode" in Windows XP) makes much more sense. To ensure that the laptop sleeps instead of hibernates, right-click the battery-gauge icon at the bottom right corner of the screen (you may need to unplug it to see this icon) and select "Power Options." In XP, click the Power Options control panel's Advanced tab; in Vista, click that window's "Choose what the power buttons do" link. You'll then see a list of drop-down menus that allow you to set the computer to sleep or stand by, not hibernate, when you close its screen or press its power button.

■ ■ ■

The Windows Registry—a vast database of system settings that governs both Microsoft's operating system and programs running on it—is at the root of many common Windows ailments. It can get clogged with references to old programs, corrupted entries can lead to mysterious crashes, and the cryptic, jargon-soaked entries that fill up the Registry are themselves largely unreadable to non-programmers. So it can be tempting to download a free program that claims to fix those Registry issues for free.

Problem is, not all of these repair tools work as advertised, some require a fair amount of computing knowledge, and a Registry fix gone wrong can leave you with a seriously damaged Windows system. So unless you see a Registry repair program recommended by a known and trusted source, don't even think about installing it. Meanwhile, keep this rule in mind: The simplest way to keep your PC running well is to be choosy about adding software to it in the first place.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$5.25 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$5.25 All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.25 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$5.25 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.25 Military with Valid I.D.

TUESDAY BARGAIN $5.25 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

For Friday, February 27 through Tuesday, March 3 only!
THEATER CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

Love Me Again

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon and Tues		4:25	7:20	

Piolo Pascual, Angel Locsin
Love, Romance, Drama • Rated PG

Synopsis
Arah (Angel Locsin) dreams of a better life—different from the life she knows in Bukidnon. Ranches everywhere are closing one by one. The glory her hometown once knew was slowly disappearing in favour of life abroad, particularly in Australia. Arah believes this too. Australia will save them from poverty. But Migo (Piolo Pascual) does not share this belief. He believes that Bukidnon's glory will return if only people didn't leave. Migo is Arah's first love.

★ ★ ★

The Uninvited

Friday		4:05	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:05	7:25	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:05	7:25	
Mon and Tues		4:05	7:25	

Elizabeth Banks, David Strathairn
Horror, Remake • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
A deadly battle of wills begins when Anna returns from a psychiatric facility and investigates the circumstances surrounding her mother's suspicious and untimely death. While Anna recuperates from the tragedy, her father becomes engaged to Rachel, her mother's former nurse, and moves her into their home. Anna's dismay quickly turns to horror when she is visited by her mother's ghost—crying out for revenge and pointing an accusing finger at Rachel.

Defiance

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon and Tues		4:00	7:00	

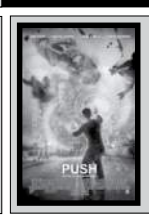
Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber
Action, Drama, War • Rated R

Synopsis
The year is 1941 and the Jews of Eastern Europe are being massacred by the thousands. Managing to escape certain death, three brothers take refuge in the dense surrounding woods they have known since childhood. There they begin their desperate battle against the Nazis. At first it is all they can do to stay alive. But gradually, as whispers of their daring spreads, they begin to attract others—men and women, young and old—willing to risk everything for the sake of even a moment's freedom.

Friday The 13th

Friday		4:20	7:05	10:00
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	10:00
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tues		4:20	7:05	

Jared Padalecki, Amanda Righetti
Horror, Remake • Rated R



Push

Friday		4:15	7:30	9:40
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	9:40
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon and Tues		4:15	7:30	

Chris Evans, Dakota Fanning
Thriller Supernatural • Rated PG 13

Pink Panther 2

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:10	
Mon and Tues		4:10	7:10	

Steve Martin, Andy Garcia
Comedy, Mystery • Rated PG

Taken

Friday		4:30	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:15	
Mon and Tues		4:30	7:15	

Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace
Action, Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Life & Style

Donations from friends put couple under a microscope

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Dwight," was very ill a few years ago. Some wonderful folks held a fundraiser to help us with bills and unpaid leave. We paid all of the outstanding medical bills and living expenses with a large portion of the money; the remainder has been set aside for an organ transplant Dwight will need a few years down the road.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who put forth the time and effort, as well as those who donated money. Dwight is now in remission, and we are both back to our full-time jobs.

Over the last three years, the only time we have taken for ourselves is a couple of long weekends. Our home is old and we've had to replace some windows and do some minor repairs. Our car is 10 years old and still runs fine, but eventually we will have to buy another one.

I'm afraid that people who helped us may think we are squandering their gift if we take a vacation or buy a car. Even when we repaired our home, we felt guilty.

My husband is healthy right now, and we would like to enjoy ourselves before things change again. The last thing we want to do is hurt anyone's feelings or jeopardize our friendships. Would you please share your thoughts on this?

LIVING IN A GLASS HOUSE

DEAR LIVING: In a situation like yours, appearances DO matter. People are extremely sensitive these days about money that is intended for one purpose being spent on another.

If you haven't already done so, to avoid any misunderstandings, put what remains of the donated monies into a separate interest-bearing account earmarked for your husband's transplant. This will enable you to live your lives.

Should anyone second-guess you, explain that you are taking the vacation or buying the next car with your earnings, and that the funds that were donated will eventually be used for the purpose for which they were intended.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife is suffering from Alzheimer's disease. I can no longer trust her using restrooms unaccompanied when we are away from home.

She has locked the stall door and sometimes just sits in there and won't respond.

Should I be using the men's or women's facility when I have to help her?

ROBERT J.

DEAR ROBERT: Caring for someone with a progressive brain disease like Alzheimer's can present many challenges. Helping a spouse use a public restroom is one of the most difficult tasks for many of the 10 million American caregivers -- and I am sure many of them will appreciate not only your question but also your challenge.

Because using the restroom is difficult for your wife, be sure to take that into consideration when planning all her activities. By calling the establishments ahead of time, you can determine which restaurant, mall, etc. offers unisex or family restrooms. If you find yourself somewhere with only a men's or women's bathroom, ask an employee for assistance. He or she should be able to clear the women's restroom for a few minutes so you can help your wife while respecting everyone's privacy.

In addition to caring for your wife, I cannot stress enough how important it is to take care of yourself. For more caregiver tips and support, call the Alzheimer's Association's toll-free, 24-hour helpline at (800) 272-3900 anytime day or night, or visit the Web site at www.alz.org.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Hairdresser: Britney Spears 'scared' of ex-manager

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears' hairdresser testified Wednesday that the pop superstar told her she was scared of her former manager and friend, Osama "Sam" Lutfi.

The testimony came as lawyers for Spears' father seek lengthy restraining orders against Spears' exboyfriend Adnan Ghalib, attorney Jon Eardley and Lutfi. A judge on Wednesday extended temporary restraining orders against the men and plans to hear further testimony April 1.

Hairdresser Roberta Romero said Spears' comments came after Lutfi repeatedly sent her text messages in late December. She said Lutfi was trying to get her to convey messages to the singer, including that he was making efforts to "free" her.

Romero, who has worked as Spears' stylist for more than a year, said the singer told her to tell Lutfi to leave them alone. Romero and Spears notified the singer's security staff about Lutfi's text messages.

Romero said she only spoke to Lutfi once, weeks before Spears' security became involved. She said he was not threatening over the phone, but that the singer told her to avoid her former friend.

"She told me she's scared of him and not to talk to him," Romero said.

Joel Boxer, a lawyer for Spears' father Jamie, read some of the text messages in court Wednesday. One message said: "Very close to getting her free now."

Lutfi's attorney, Bryan Freedman, declined to comment after the hearing about the text messages.

Romero was the third witness to testify in the case. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Aviva K. Bobb has also heard testimony from Spears' father, a security guard who logged the messages Lutfi allegedly sent to Romero, and Geraldine Wyle, one of Jamie Spears' attorneys.

Jamie Spears testified Monday that he did not know whether his daughter had spoken to Lutfi since last February. But he also repeated a claim that Lutfi put drugs in his daughter's food in efforts to control her.

Wyle testified Wednesday about an agreement that was reached last year between Jamie Spears and Lutfi in which the former manager agreed not try to contact the singer through any means.

Freedman said earlier this week that the only instance of direct contact was a call that Britney Spears apparently made to Lutfi.

Attorneys for Jamie Spears attempted to call Lutfi as a witness on Wednesday, but his attorneys said they had not properly served a subpoena. He said he did not know whether Lutfi would appear at the hearing in April.

Most of the testimony so far has concerned Lutfi and Ghalib, who is not represented in the restraining order case.

AP

This Dec. 2, 2008 file photo shows singer Britney Spears performing on ABC's "Good Morning America" show at the Big Apple Circus in New York.

Nick Mitchell has 'American Idol' judges laughing

NEW YORK (AP)—"American Idol" hopeful Nick Mitchell didn't win over the judges with his singing, but his over-the-top style clearly qualified as comedy.

Mitchell left the judges laughing and nearly speechless Wednesday after he wailed a show-stopper from the musical "Dreamgirls." He came on as the flamboyant alter ego he has christened Norman Gentle.

Simon Cowell called the performance "atrocious" and "horrific," and his three fellow judges didn't argue.

The acerbic Cowell had no kinder comments for Matt Giraud: "verging on a horrible performance."

And Jeanine Vailes moved the gentler Randy Jackson to say that her performance's "best part was the end, when it was over."

But all wasn't lost.

Red-haired, full-throated Allison Iraheta wowed the judges.

"This is a funny show tonight," marveled Jackson when the 16-year-old Los Angeles native was done. "First, we had comedy, we got some bad singing. You just blew it out the box!"

AP

In this image released by Fox, "American Idol" contestant Nick Mitchell is shown.

"From now on, you can be sure you're great," raved Kara DioGuardi.

On Wednesday's live broadcast, the second group of 12 contestants were vying to be among this season's dozen finalists. The night's top three vote-getters will be revealed on the Fox series' Thursday episode.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

House passes resolution to honor actor Paul Newman

WASHINGTON (AP)—Paul Newman, the late actor and 10-time Academy Award nominee, has been honored by lawmakers as a screen legend and humanitarian. Newman died Sept. 26, 2008, at age 83 after a long battle with cancer. The House on Tuesday night approved a resolution recognizing Newman's achievements on and off screen. The resolution said Newman's "humanitarian works and incomparable talents have made him an American icon who will never be forgotten." The Hollywood star won one Oscar and took home two honorary ones, and had major roles in more than 50 motion pictures, including "Cool Hand Luke," "Exodus," "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," "The Verdict," "The Sting" and "Absence of Malice." Newman and his popular food company, Newman's Own, have given more than $250 million to charity over the years. He also helped to start "Hole in the Wall" camps across the world for children with life-threatening illnesses.

Jeremy Piven plans to attend grievance hearing

NEW YORK (AP)—Jeremy Piven will again be center stage in New York. Piven plans to attend a hearing Thursday at Actors' Equity Association on a grievance filed by the producers of "Speed-the-Plow," which the performer quit after his doctor said he was suffering from mercury poisoning. Both sides are expected to present their case during the proceedings, which will be closed to the public. The grievance committee, composed of five actors and five producers, could resolve the case or one (or both) of the two parties could file for arbitration. Piven departed the critically praised production of Mamet's comedy in December, less than two months after the show opened on Broadway. His doctor told the show's producers that Piven was "seriously ill"—possibly from eating too much raw fish—"and unable to fulfill his contractual obligation to 'Speed-the-Plow.'"

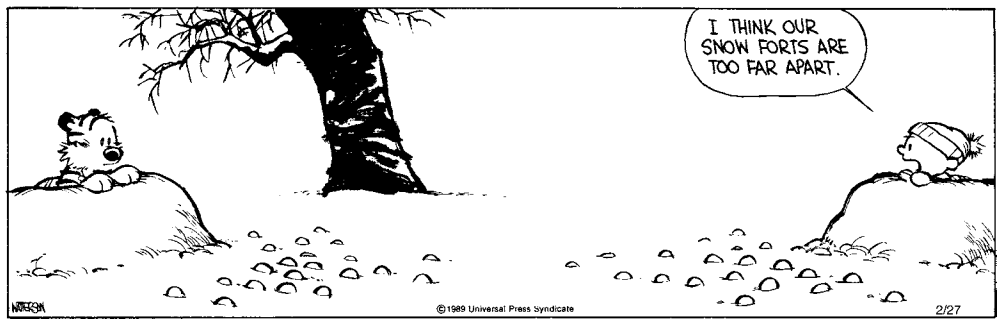
Post 9-11 novel wins PEN/Faulkner prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Joseph O'Neill's "Netherland," an acclaimed post-Sept. 11 novel bypassed for the National Book Awards and the National Book Critics Circle prize, has finally received a literary honor: the PEN/Faulkner Award for fiction. The choice was announced Thursday by Susan Richards Shreve and Robert Stone, directors of the Washington-based PEN/Faulkner Foundation. O'Neill, whose book is narrated by a man who lived in downtown Manhattan at the time of the 2001 terrorist attacks, will receive $15,000. The finalists—Sarah Shun-Lien Bynum's "Ms. Hempel Chronicles," Susan Choi's "A Person of Interest," Richard Price's "Lush Life" and Ron Rash's "Serena"—each get $5,000. Previous winners include Philip Roth, John Updike and E.L. Doctorow.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



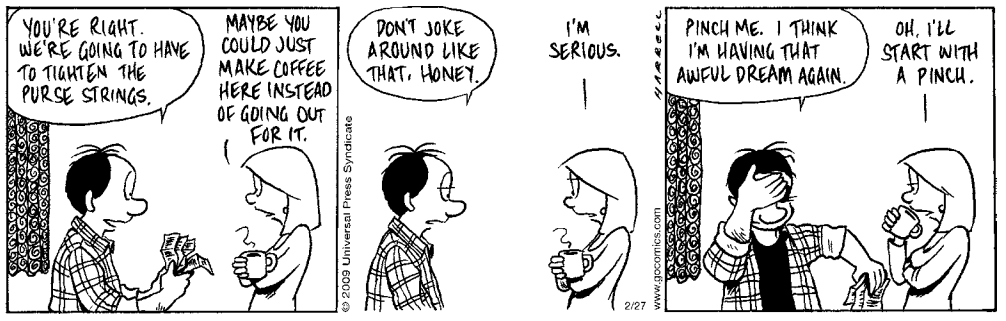
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

AMBITION! THAT'S WHAT I NEED!
JIM DAVIS 2-27
Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
SOUNDS HARD THOUGH, DOESN'T IT?
WELCOME TO MY WORLD, KEMO SABE
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.

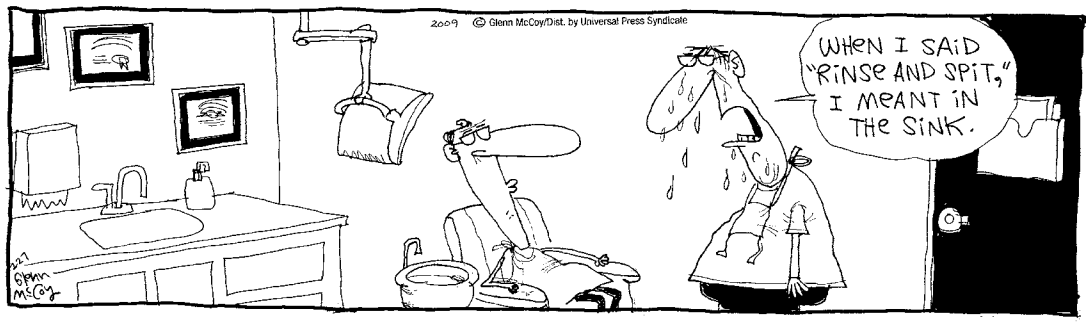
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU'RE RIGHT. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TIGHTEN THE PURSE STRINGS.
MAYBE YOU COULD JUST MAKE COFFEE HERE INSTEAD OF GOING OUT FOR IT.
DON'T JOKE AROUND LIKE THAT, HONEY.
© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate
I'M SERIOUS.
PINCH ME. I THINK I'M HAVING THAT AWFUL DREAM AGAIN.
OH, I'LL START WITH A PINCH.
2/27
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Spills the beans
6 English channel?
9 Shade source
12 Genuflect
13 Bruins legend
14 Ultra-modernist
15 Preamble
16 Rifle attachment
18 Drink
20 Chaste
21 Field, briefly
23 La preceder
24 Stickup
25 Mines' output
27 Grill brand
29 Potassium source
31 Los Angeles suburb
35 Jargon
37 The Red and the Black
38 Summarize
41 Legal thing
43 Recipe meas.
44 Astringent
45 Family cars
47 Group of secretaries?
49 Hugh Laurie title role
52 Greek H
53 Brewery product
54 Signed a contract
55 Lair
56 "For Me and My —"
57 Borscht necessity

DOWN
1 Schuss
2 Quaint stopover
3 Chatroom frequenter, e.g.
4 Bacterium
5 Unkempt ones
6 Outfielder's slip-up
7 Highland hillside
8 Weep
9 Boredom
10 Ogler's looks
11 Sacred song
17 "Lakme" and "Lulu"
19 Hawkeye
21 Drew's daytime-TV predecessor
22 401(k) alternative
24 Yon maiden
26 Antipasto ingredient
28 Greeted the villain
30 Pinch
32 Obi toggle
33 Petrol
34 Kreskin's claim
36 Hansel's sis
38 Sped
39 Cheer up
40 Castro, e.g.
42 Master, in old India
45 Actress Ward
46 Zilch
48 Kvetch
50 Collection
51 Mag. staffers

Solution time: 25 mins.

E	M	I	T	■	P	A	M	■	G	M	E	N
D	I	O	R	■	A	P	E	■	L	A	V	E
A	N	T	I	■	G	U	N	■	O	G	E	E
M	I	A	S	M	A	■	U	P	W	A	R	D
■	■	■	T	O	N	■	■	F	E	Z	■	■
J	I	V	E	■	I	N	S	C	R	I	B	E
A	D	A	■	■	N	I	A	■	■	N	U	B
B	O	G	G	L	I	N	G	■	V	E	R	B
■	■	A	R	E	■	■	A	H	A	■	■	■
R	E	B	A	T	E	■	M	O	R	S	E	L
I	K	O	N	■	C	O	O	■	I	L	I	E
P	E	N	N	■	H	E	R	■	E	A	R	N
E	D	D	Y	■	O	R	E	■	D	Y	E	S

Yesterday's answer 2-27

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12					■	13			■	14		
15					■	16			17			
■	■	18			19			■	20			
21	22		■	23			■	24				
25			26	■	27		28			■	■	■
29				30		■	31			32	33	34
■	■	■	35			36		■	37			
38	39	40			■	41		42	■	43		
44				■	45				46		■	■
47				48			■	49			50	51
52			■	53			■	54				
55			■	56			■	57				

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rozonda "Chilli" Thomas, 38; Adam Baldwin, 47; Elizabeth Taylor, 77; Joanne Woodward, 79

Happy Birthday: Surround yourself with energetic people who can help you pull your ideas together and make them happen. It will be a year of meshing together all sorts of different aspects and elements of the things you've wanted to pursue. Don't fear change when that is precisely what's needed in order to bring things together for you. Your numbers are 9, 13, 20, 26, 30, 33, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your emotions will get the better of you if you engage in disagreements with someone over money or work. Don't give in to demands or show how upset you really are. A poker face will be far more effective for winning. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't get stuck doing everything for everyone when you should be taking a little time to work on your own projects. A serious look at your life will allow you to realize what's missing. You may have to make a few alterations. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You have to balance everything out so that you can enjoy the luxury of staying on top. Someone is likely to throw a wrench in your plans but, if you act fast, you can counteract whatever happens and stay on schedule. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't trust your emotions to lead you in the right direction. You are likely to make a poor choice if you give in to someone and neglect something you should be handling with care. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You have all the answers and the energy to make things happen. Partnerships and positive change can help you jump from one area of expertise to another. Your emotional high will magically draw good things your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): An investment will pay off if you take action. Sudden changes in your relationship with someone you've known for a long time will baffle you at first but liberate you in the end. Taking control will pay off. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You are in the driver's seat and, as long as you don't let go of the wheel, no one will be able to stand in your way. You must terminate poor relationships and develop positive ones that will help you realize your true potential. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can't give in to threats, demands or letting others compromise your own needs and objectives. Someone with more experience will help you. Changes within your personal life will be required if you want to move forward. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Give some thought to how you see your life unfolding from this point on. Working from home will help you to balance out your time and will allow you to think calmly about how to handle the many decisions ahead of you. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't give in to someone's emotional whims. Minor mishaps will arise if you aren't thinking about what you are doing. Proceed with caution. Take care how you navigate your way through talks, detours and family situations. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): If you touch enough people with your story, you will gain some positive feedback that can help you move ahead with your plans. You'll be able to take action and gain greater control over your life. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A secret meeting with someone from your past will clear up a lot of issues. Once you understand where you stand, moving forward will be easy. Make a go of something that means a lot to you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming and playful. You have lots of interests, show creative skills and can reinvent yourself with a flip of a switch. You are a great ideas person.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6				3		7		5
	5				6		4	
3								
	8		7		9			
7								2
			2		8		1	
								4
	7		8				9	
1		2		7				3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	3	7	4	9	2	5	6	8
9	4	6	1	8	5	3	2	7
8	5	2	7	6	3	1	4	9
4	1	9	2	3	6	8	7	5
6	7	5	8	1	4	9	3	2
2	8	3	9	5	7	6	1	4
3	6	4	5	2	9	7	8	1
7	9	1	3	4	8	2	5	6
5	2	8	6	7	1	4	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/26

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOUSE CONSTRUCTION Solution: 7 letters

S	E	T	N	E	M	Y	A	L	R	E	D	N	U	L
K	N	L	B	I	N	T	E	R	I	O	R	O	A	A
I	C	A	A	P	R	O	P	E	R	T	Y	R	O	I
T	S	I	L	C	T	N	I	R	P	E	U	L	B	R
C	I	U	R	P	S	I	A	T	D	T	T	A	G	E
H	T	S	O	B	A	N	K	O	C	N	S	R	N	T
E	E	N	O	I	T	A	V	E	L	E	A	T	I	A
N	Y	Z	F	P	H	O	T	O	M	D	S	L	M	M
O	P	T	O	L	E	I	D	E	I	I	T	O	A	O
I	T	R	I	N	H	D	N	N	R	N	D	W	R	O
T	E	S	O	C	E	T	G	O	I	E	E	H	F	R
I	P	W	R	J	R	O	B	A	L	R	S	O	E	H
D	R	A	O	B	E	R	P	S	C	E	I	M	E	T
D	A	L	R	R	A	C	O	D	E	S	G	E	S	A
A	C	A	V	H	K	E	T	E	R	C	N	O	C	B

© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 2/27

Addition, Arborist, Architectural, Bank, Basement, Bathroom, Blueprint, Board, Brick, Carpet, City, Codes, Concrete, Crew, Deposit, Design, Door, Elevation, Fees, Framing, Grading, Home, HVAC, Interior, Kitchen, Labor, Land, Laws, Loan, Material, Models, Paint, Photo, Plans, Project, Property, Roof, Scale, Section, Site, Trim, Underlayment, Work, Zone

Yesterday's Answer: Refresh

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. **Order online at upuzzles.com.**

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedroom, 1 bathroom house centrally located in Garapan, equipped with a water tank, air conditioners in every room, nice, safe, and friendly neighborhood. NMHC applicants welcome.
Please call 483-3848/285-2713 for more information.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

2 bedroom, handicap equipped unit
1 & 2 bedroom basic units also available
Fully-furnished
Location: Susupe and San Vicente
Please contact Rachel at 234-5236 during office hours
Mon. to Fri. 8:30am - 4:00pm

Computer Repair

Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

OVER

© 2009 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

WHATZIT Solution:
Bend over backwards

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Spacious Executive House for rent, Ahgaga Rd. Papago, Safe quiet area, 4000sq ft, 5BR, 3 ½ BTH, 3 stories, kitchen/living rm, laundry room, 2 covered balconies, panoramic ocean view, full concrete, landscaped, yard maint. included, 3000 gal. water tnk, negotiable, see to appreciate, on site landlord. Call 483-1933 or 256-0132

WANTED TO LEASE

Looking for house and peoperty to lease for 55 years will pay cash. Please call at 323-7676. Mon-Fri.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 bedroom apt., furnished, 24hrs. water supply, safe & quiet neighborhood. Located at Beach Rd., Garapan & Gualo Rai Vill. For inquiries: call 483-2729 or 234-5593

DRUNK DRIVING
Over the limit. Under arrest.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, - v - MARIAN A. CARAYOAN, Defendants.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 02-0007) SIXTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to and Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 10, 2002, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 008 T 042, containing an area of 867 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands & Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 008 T 01 dated January 7, 1998, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 88-161, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 17, 2009, at the hour of 11:30 am., at the Superior Court, San Jose Village, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 2nd day of February 2009.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: 02/03/09 Closing Date: CONTINUOUS

POSITION	EXAMINATION NO.
Audit Manager (2) positions	09-010
Senior Auditor (3) positions	09-011
Audit Supervisor (2) positions	09-012
Auditor (4) positions	09-013

For more information , please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcements at the Office of Personnel Management (OPA) in Garapan.

JESUS C. BORJA
Attorney at Law
Post Office Box 505889
Hagoi Road, Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950-5889
Telephone/Fax: 234-8848
E-mail: jcborja@saipan.com
Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIANS FOR JEROME ISAIAH GUERRERO REYES AND AMAYA GRACE GUERRERO REYES, Minor , By ANTHONY C. SCRAGG AND PAULINE A. JOHNSON, Husband and Wife, Petitioner.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0029-FCD) NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANS

TO: ALL LIVING PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AND ADULT SIBLINGS OF THE MINOR CHILDREN, JEROME ISAIAH GUERRERO REYES AND AMAYA GRACE GUERRERO REYES

You are hereby notified that the hearing on the petition filed by Petitioners, Anthony C. Scragg and Pauline A. Johnson, to be appointed General Guardians of the minor children, Jerome Isaiah Guerrero Reyes and Amaya Grace Guerrero Reyes, has been set for 1:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, on Monday, March 9, 2009, in Courtroom 205A at the Commonwealth Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan. You are invited to attend this hearing.

Dated this 16th day of January 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Superior Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Administrator, Jeffrey R. Kaipat

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARIA PIERE MALUS, Deceased.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 99-769D

ARONGRONG SANGI, NGARE NGALIIR BWE AI IYEEL AIGHUGHUUL KKEPASAL AISSIS

Raal: 4/20/2009
Loll Atoll: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Naraja

ARONGORONG NGALIIR TOALAP ARAMAS KKA EYOOR YAAR AKAAMWOSCH NGARE TIPITIP AISSIS SANGI:
1. SOLTEIO KAIPAT
2. SISTO MALUS KAIPAT
3. JOSEPHA MALUS KAIPAT
4. CONCEPCION KAIPAT RUBEN
5. CALISTRO MALUS KAIPAT
6. MARIA ROFAG SABLAN

Arongrong nngeliir aramas taolap, bew Jeffrey R. Kaipat meloll Saipan Marianas **l**s. sangi yaal apelughluugh, ngare ello bwe ii eschay school **l**egheleghiil matt, **iye yaal Maria Piere Malus**, eghal tuungor ngali Superior Court of the Northern Marianas bew ebwe feruu aighughul teplaal ngare kkapasal **l** yaay matt. Attomiil alughughuul matt yeel nge, **Robert T. Torres, esq. Bwulasiol elollo, Plata Dr. Whispering Palm, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Bx 503785, Saipan, MP 96950.**

Arongrong iyaay aighughuul kapasal ngare tittilapal **l** yaay matt, sangi school **l**eghleghiil, Jeffrey R. Kaipat, ebwe bwel te wool **20th rallil April, 2009 loll atoll 1:30 p.m.** me **l**oll imwal awewe iye re makay Rm. 202A Superior Court of the Northern Marianas **l**s. Ngali alongeer aramas, taolap ikka remengii bwe eyoor yami tipalugh nare aisiis, ighal tungoor ngali ghami aubwe totto. Ngare eyoor yami Ai-yeegh sangi arongrong, yeel au faingi bwulasiol Clerk of Court be rebwe aliisi ghami, Ghilisao, Olomway.

ATTIWLIGH LOLL 17th rallil February, 2009.

/s/ BERNADITA SABLAN
Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Vacancy Re-Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 09-007 Opening Date: 02/23/09 Closing Date: 03/06/09

LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Laborary Manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. Collects field samples at various stations and checkpoints for water and wastewater operations. Performs routine analysis on samples to ensure samples meet chemistry or microbiological parameters as determined by the EPA. Mixes media for chemistry titration analysis; calculates chemical reagent standardizations for chemical titration results. Cleans laboratory to include washing glassware and other laboratory materials. Maintains records of laboratory operations. Responds to customer or complaints from the general public. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION, WATER LABORATORY, SAIPAN

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION: High School diploma or equivalent and three years work experience, laboratory experienced is preferred. Knowledge of: Mathematics; Basic knowledge of chemicals; Safety procedures. Skills in: Collecting samples; Performing routine analysis; Preparing media; Following laboratory procedures; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. CNMI Driver's License. APPICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Application may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor or the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

CUC IS EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth 0f the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-007

REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BOATING SAFETY SMILING COVE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Repair and Renovation of Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Smiling Cove, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **(CNMI)**.

The project package will be available on or after February 20, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procuredures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further **Amended by Public Law 15-118** and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on March 11, 2009, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Boating Safety Smiling Cove. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on March 18, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 2343547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-007"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time March 23, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time March 23, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 23, 2009, and must be received no later than April 02, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid,

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, April 07, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 p.m. local time, on March 27,2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty **(120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 09-008

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Tables and Chairs for Head Start Resources and Training Centers for Tinian, Chalan Kanoa and Tanapag Centers**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-008" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **March 09, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-008" CONFIDENTIAL – Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.***

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-009

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Desktop & Laptop Computer Systems, other equipments and Accessories for Garapan Elementary School (GES).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-009" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-009, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (3) copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, PSS Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.***

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public Shool System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-010

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of **Bottled Water and Delivery Service.** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-010" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-010, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1) copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, PSS Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.***

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public Shool System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

A triumphant return for Tiger at Match Play

MARANA, Ariz. (AP)—Eight months later, Tiger Woods looked as though he had never been away. Woods made a triumphant return to golf Wednesday in the Accenture Match Play Championship with a start that showed golf what it had been missing in the 253 days since he limped his way to an epic U.S. Open title.

Just past high noon in the desert, Woods fired an 8-iron into 5 feet for birdie. Then came a gentle fist pump when his 3-iron from 237 yards on the par-5 second settled 4 feet from the cup for eagle.

He closed out Brendan Jones of Australia with a 3-foot par on the 16th hole for a 3-and-2 victory.

"It felt like nothing had changed," Woods said. "Walking down the fairway, it was like business as usual."

But this was no ordinary day.

Before thousands of fans who scurried through the high desert, eager to see every shot from the world's No. 1 player, Woods showed no sign of the reconstructive surgery done on his left knee a week after winning the U.S. Open.

"It held up," he said. "It felt good."

Woods said he had looked forward to the rush of competing. It was as if all that time away from golf had been bottled up inside him. And then it came gushing out on a scorching day on Dove Mountain, where temperatures approached 90 degrees.

Fans packed into the bleachers around the first tee, with more lined up behind the ropes all the way to the green, and the cheer when Woods walked onto the tee could be heard all the way down the fairway.

Woods backed off his tee shot, and without much expression, belted a fairway metal down the right side of the fairway.

Tiger Woods watches his tee shot on the par-3 12th hole during his opening round 3-and-2 victory against Brendan Jones of the World Golf Championships Accenture Match Play Championship Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009, in Marana, Ariz.

AP

"You are back!" one spectator shouted.

Was he ever.

He won the first two holes before some rust settled in. Woods made three bogeys over his next five holes and was leading, 1 up, until he birdied the par-5 eighth with a 6-foot putt.

Jones never got any closer.

Woods seized control of the match when Jones couldn't save par behind the green on the par-3 12th, and then Woods struck another familiar pose by raising his putter above his head as his 20-foot eagle putt dropped on the 13th.

It was the third time in five years Woods had surgery on his left knee, adding to the mystery of whether he would be as good as the player who has won 65 times on the PGA Tour, including 14 majors.

"I came back from surgery before, but never this long," Woods said. "And it didn't have quite the same attention."

His return dwarfed everything else that took place in the first round at The Ritz-Carlton Club.

Stewart Cink was the second match out, and there were only a few dozen fans in the bleachers. His game with Richard Sterne was tied after 18 holes, so they headed back to the first tee—making Woods and Jones wait a few extra minutes.

This time, there wasn't an inch of wood available in the bleachers. Fans stood four deep around the tee box, and they lined the ropes all the way to the green some 460 yards away. It was a bigger crowd than when Cink played Woods in the championship match last year.

"I just told everybody on the first tee that he's waited eight months to play," Cink said. "He can wait two more minutes."

Cink wound up winning his match, one of six that required overtime.

Phil Mickelson, who blew a four-shot lead at Riviera and rallied to win three days ago, did it again. He was 4 up on Angel Cabrera with five holes to play until the Argentine caught him, but Lefty birdied the 19th hole.

Other top players were not so fortunate.

Sergio Garcia, the No. 2 seed, lost to Charl Schwartzel on the 18th hole when the Spaniard hit into the bunker and made bogey.

Third-seeded Padraig Harrington, who won the British Open and PGA Championship while Woods was away, arrived at Dove Mountain having missed his last two cuts. This was a short week, too, for he lost to Pat Perez on the 18th hole.

Anthony Kim and Camilo Villegas, the faces of the next generation hopeful of challenging Woods, had the shortest days. Kim never lost a hole in beating Lin Wen-Tang of Taiwan, 7 and 5, while Villegas beat Rod Pampling, 7 and 6.

They were on the same course, but it sure wasn't center court.

Cink was surprised to see even a few dozen people in the bleachers when he began his match.

"They got there early and claimed their seats for Tiger," he said. "Because really, Tiger's match was the only one that mattered today."

Woods, as he has done so often in his career, gave the crowd what they came to see.

And even Jones, who appeared to be overwhelmed, got caught up in the commotion.

"As I walked off the first hole, there was just mayhem—media, and everyone was just running," Jones said.

After Woods birdied the first hole, Jones overhead a reporter say, "Another nine holes to go for 10 and 8." Jones did his best to make the match last as long as it did. After a lengthy wait on the 315-yard 15th, Woods hit 3-wood onto the green, and the Australian followed with a shot even closer, making eagle. Still, Jones knew his stay at Dove Mountain was not going to be a long one.

"I really wouldn't be betting against him," Jones said. "He hit some shots other people can't hit."

Bucs release Brooks, 4 others

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Derrick Brooks had no explanation for what just happened to him.

Brooks, one of the top players in Tampa Bay history, was cut by the Buccaneers Wednesday in a purge of the team's veterans.

"Right now, like all of you guys, I'm just trying to get a feel for it all, trying to come to grips with it," the 11-time Pro Bowl selection said by telephone. "I don't even know what to think."

He can begin thinking about his future in the NFL away from Tampa.

Brooks, the NFL Defensive Player of the Year when Tampa Bay won the Super Bowl after the 2002 season, was among five players cut, four of them older than 32-year-old Raheem Morris, the team's new head coach.

The others were wide receivers Joey Galloway and Ike Hilliard, running back Warrick Dunn and linebacker Cato June. The 29-year-old June is the only player under 30 and the only one younger than Morris.

The releases save more than $10 million in salary cap space for a team that already is close to $50 million under the projected cap of $123 million. General manager Mark Dominik said the object of the cuts was less to save money than to get the team younger.

"Obviously decisions like these are extremely difficult to make," Dominik said.

Of the team's core veterans, only cornerback Ronde Barber survived the purge. Barber, who will turn 34 in April, worked closely with Morris, who spent time as the team's defensive backs coach before rising to head coach.

Dominik said the timing of the decision was to allow the players to participate in the start of free agency Friday.

"We did this out of respect for those players," he added. "We let them know we are going in a different direction and we have young men on the roster who will have an opportunity to step up and compete for a starting job."

Morris, who replaced Jon Gruden last month, said he and Dominik made the decision with input from the rest of the new coach's staff.

"There's no doubt we are losing players with a tremendous amount of leadership and character," Morris said.

"You never replace a guy like Derrick Brooks. This was not a money issue or a youth movement. This is a direction change. We are moving forward, we're going to play some people that were behind these guys and let them compete."

The 36-year-old Brooks' release comes after a season in which he made his 11th Pro Bowl.

"There is no way to adequately thank Derrick Brooks for his years of dedication and service to this team and community, or for his impact on me personally," Morris said.

"He is a once in a lifetime kind of player and man, and I am very fortunate to have had the chance to work with him and learn from him. Those who played with him and coached him are better because of it."

Brooks, one of only four players voted to 10 consecutive Pro Bowls, also has been a standout off the field. He was the co-winner of the 2000 NFL Man of the Year award, given to the player who combines skill on the field with good work off it.

"Our family and the entire Tampa Bay community owe Derrick an indescribable measure of gratitude for all that he has meant over the last 14 years," said Buccaneers co-chairman Bryan Glazer. "His play on the field and leadership in the locker room helped resurrect our franchise, and we look forward to celebrating his certain enshrinement in the Pro Football Hall of Fame."

Dunn, 34, was the Man of the Year in 2004.

He played his first five seasons with the Bucs, spent six years with Atlanta, then rejoined Tampa Bay last season, rushing for 786 yards and a 4.2 average.

He made the Pro Bowl three times and is the sixth player in NFL history to have over 10,000 yards rushing and 500 receptions. Dunn has played in 181 games with 154 starts, and rushed for 10,967 yards, 19th in NFL history.

Galloway, 37, is the only Buccaneer to have three straight seasons with more than 1,000 yards receiving, something he accomplished from 2005-2007. He is only the second player to have three such seasons with two different teams—he did it in 1995 and 199—98 with Seattle.

But he comes off an injury-plagued year in which he made only 13 catches.

June spent four seasons with Indianapolis, winning a championship in 2006 before signing as a free agent with the Bucs in 2007.

Brooks, Dunn, Galloway and Hilliard are all former first-round draft choices - Brooks and Dunn with the Bucs, Galloway with the Seahawks and Hilliard with the New York Giants in 1997.

Giants sign HB Brandon Jacobs to 4-year contract

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Less than two weeks after putting a franchise tag on him, the New York Giants signed bruising halfback Brandon Jacobs to a four-year, $25 million contract on Wednesday.

The signing came less than two days before the start of the NFL free agency period.

"I was confident all along that this was going to get done I didn't panic one bit," Jacobs said in a statement released by the team. "I know the reason we did it the way we did; I knew I was going to be here. I was super-confident and I am here. I'm happy about it."

The deal includes $13 million in guarantees. Jacobs will earn $15 million over the first two years.

Putting a franchise tag on Jacobs earlier this month guaranteed him a $6.6 million salary next season.

The 264-pound mainstay of the Giants' running attack the past two seasons, Jacobs signed the deal on Wednesday after the two sides hammered out the agreement over the past week.

"This team is full of young talent," he said. "We brought some great talent in here the last two years and those guys are still learning and getting better. Our offensive line is great and will continue to be great. There are a lot of young guys on our team that are still playing great, great football. I'm looking for big things out of our football team next year."

Spurs topple Portland as Duncan sits

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—With Tim Duncan sidelined for the second straight game, Tony Parker scored 39 points and the Spurs beat the Portland Trail Blazers for an 11th consecutive time in San Antonio, 99-84 Wednesday night.

Parker carried the Spurs again without Duncan, who is day to day with a right leg injury. Between Parker's 37 points Tuesday and Wednesday's encore, Parker combined for 76 in back-to-back games without Duncan or Manu Ginobili healthy.

Channing Frye scored 15 for Portland, whose losing string in San Antonio dates to 2002. The Trail Blazers also dropped their fifth straight road game, and have another in Minnesota on Friday before returning home.

Matt Bonner added 15 points for San Antonio, which has won four straight.

Duncan was diagnosed earlier Wednesday with right quad tendonosis, a day after he was scratched from the starting lineup shortly before Tuesday's win over Dallas.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich doesn't know whether his perennial All-Star would play Friday against LeBron James and Cleveland in the first meeting between the elite teams.

Portland was also without its big man, Greg Oden, who missed his fifth straight game with a bone chip in his left knee.

Nuggets 110, Hawks 109

At Denver, Chauncey Billups scored a season-best 33 points for Denver and Atlanta's Flip Murray had a short jumper bounced off the rim at the buzzer, allowing the Nuggets to escape.

The Hawks had trimmed a 110-102 deficit in the final 90 seconds but Murray's shot clanked off the iron and he fell to the court as the Nuggets breathed a huge sigh of relief over their first win in a week.

A loss to Atlanta's "B" team with the West-leading Los Angeles Lakers on tap Friday night could have been devastating for the Nuggets, who are clinging to their Northwest Division lead with star Carmelo Anthony (knee) ailing, center Nene (knee) out and forward Kenyon Martin fighting through back spasms.

The Hawks were without starters Mike Bibby (flu) and Josh Smith (family matter).

Marvin Williams led Atlanta with a season-best 31 points.

Anthony scored 23 for Denver.

Clippers 93, Celtics 91

At Los Angeles, Zach Randolph scored 30 points, including the final three of the game. The win was only the Clippers' 15th of the season. The loss was the Celtics' 13th.

Randolph hit a layup with 20 seconds remaining to give Los Angeles a 92-91 lead. Boston's Paul Pierce missed a 17-footer from the top of the key with 10 seconds left. Randolph was fouled after an inbounds play and made one free throw with 6 seconds left.

The Celtics had no timeouts remaining and Rajon Rondo dribbled the length of the court before losing the ball, their 21st turnover of the game.

Randolph also had 12 rebounds. Baron Davis had 16 points, seven rebounds and five assists for Los Angeles before fouling out with 35 seconds remaining.

Pierce led the Celtics, who are without the injured Kevin Garnett, with 20 points. Rondo and Ray Allen each scored 17.

Nets 111, Bulls 99

At East Rutherford, N.J., Devin Harris scored 19 of his 42 points in the fourth quarter and carried New Jersey for the second straight game.

The dazzling performance came just two days after Harris scored 39 points and hit a buzzer-beating half-court shot for a win over Philadelphia.

The All-Star point guard hit 7 of 9 shots from the field in the period to boost the Nets' playoff hopes and hand Chicago only its fifth loss in 13 games.

Reserve Bobby Simmons added 18 points and rookie Brook Lopez had 13.

Ben Gordon had 17 points and recently acquired John Salmons added 15 points to lead the Bulls, who were a woeful 7-for-25 from the field in the final quarter, including hitting one of their first 11.

76ers 106, Wizards 98

At Washington, Andre Iguodala scored 22 points, including a flying dunk and a 3-point buzzer-beater during a third-quarter spurt, and had 11 assists and nine rebounds. Philadelphia snapped a four-game losing streak.

The victory completed the 76ers' four-game sweep of the Wizards, reinforcing the fact Philadelphia's early season coaching change has paid off much better than Washington's. Tony DiLeo improved to 19-14 with Philadelphia, while Washington's Ed Tapscott fell to 12-34 in the battle of interim coaches.

Andre Miller scored 17 points, Louis Williams had 16 points, and Samuel Dalembert finished with 11 points and 13 rebounds as the 76ers improved to .500 on the season with their first victory since the All-Star break.

Pacers 104, Grizzlies 99

At Indianapolis, T.J. Ford and Jarrett Jack each scored 20 points, and Memphis' Rudy Gay missed a 3-pointer with 7 seconds left that would have tied the score.

Brandon Rush and Marquis Daniels scored 14 points apiece and Troy Murphy had 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Pacers. Indiana is 3-1 without All-Star forward Danny Granger, who is recovering from a torn tendon in his right foot.

Magic 114, Knicks 109

At New York, Dwight Howard had 24 points and 21 rebounds in his 20th career 20-20 game. Hedo Turkoglu scored 33 points to lead the Magic, who bounced back from a 120-102 loss in Chicago on Tuesday, their worst defensive performance of the season.

Howard overwhelmed the undersized Knicks for most of the game, then Rafer Alston and Rashard Lewis hit big 3-pointers in the final 3 1/2 minutes after New York had chipped away. Lewis scored 17 points and Alston added 15.

Hornets 90, Pistons 87

At New Orleans, David West scored 30 points and grabbed two key offensive rebounds on New Orleans' final possession, helping the Hornets hand Detroit its eighth straight loss.

West and Chris Paul, who finished with 20 points and 13 assists, combined for all but two of the Hornets' 25 fourth-quarter points.

Mavericks 116, Bucks 96

At Dallas, Josh Howard scored 27 points, Jason Kidd added 19 and Dallas avenged its worst loss of the season last month in Milwaukee.

The Bucks beat the Mavericks 133-99 on Jan. 21 and led 15-7 early on Wednesday. Dallas coach Rick Carlisle called a timeout and his team responded by scoring the next 16 points.

Brandon Bass came off the bench to score 18 points and grab 11 rebounds for the Mavericks. Dirk Nowitzki and Antoine Wright each added 14 as Dallas put six scorers in double figures.

Jazz 120, Timberwolves 103

At Minneapolis, Ronnie Brewer scored 16 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter and Carlos Boozer showed signs of his old self for Utah.

In his second game back after missing the previous 44 with a knee injury, Boozer had 12 points on 6-for-10 shooting in 21 minutes. Mehmet Okur scored 25 for the Jazz, who extended their winning streak to a season-long six games.

Bobcats 98, Kings 91

At Sacramento, Calif., Gerald Wallace scored 27 points to help the Bobcats win their first road game in nearly a month. Sitting in a courtside seat near the bench, Charlotte managing partner Michael Jordan watched the struggling Bobcats get off to a fast start. Charlotte went on an 18-0 run and built a 14-point halftime lead.

Boris Diaw scored 23 points for Charlotte, which had dropped seven straight road games. Emeka Okafor had 13 points and 11 rebounds, DJ Augustin scored 12 points and Vladimir Radmanovic added 10.

Diamond notches second win, Nationals keep lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Budweiser Basketball League

Diamond Auto Care booked back-to-back wins in the 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League after slipping past Quichocho Law Office in a down-to-the-wire game Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

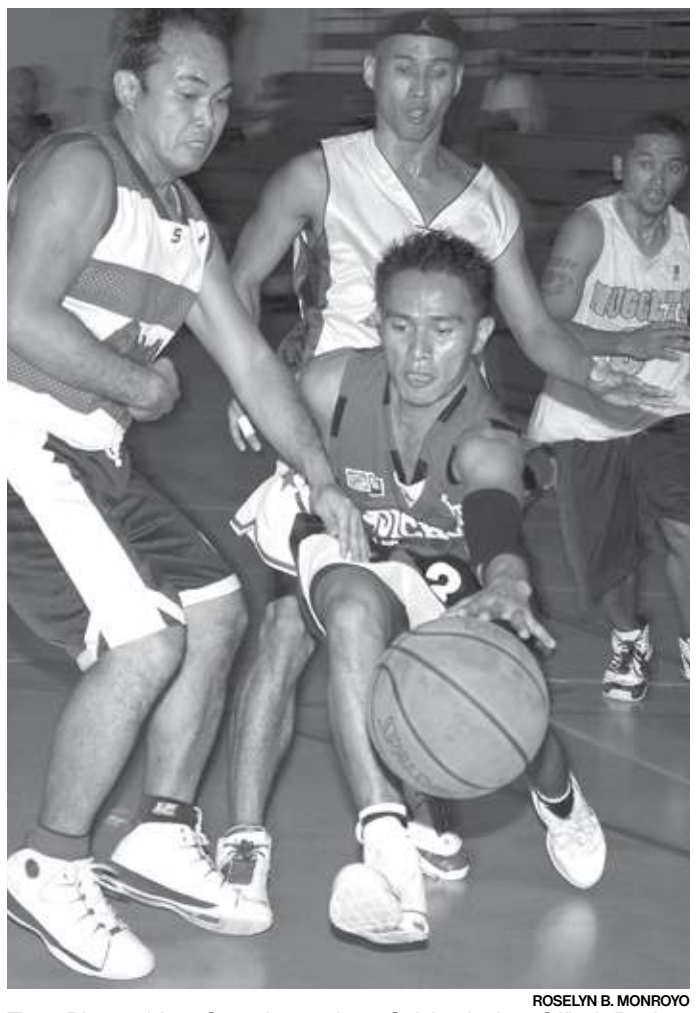
The victory came thanks to Quichocho's free throw woes in the last 1:15 of the fourth quarter.

Quichocho, which worked its way back from a 13-point deficit in the fourth quarter, 80-93, failed to complete a come-from-behind win after going only 3-for-8 from the 15-foot line in the closing minute of the game.

A 17-5 run in a span of six minutes moved Quichocho within one, 97-98, then Darwin Barbo gave his team its first taste of the lead since the first half, nailing an undergoal stab, 99-98, with 2:22 left in the fourth quarter.

But that was the last time Quichocho had the lead, as it committed several errors, missed crucial charities, and was held to only one field goal.

After Larry Palero's drive cut the lead to one anew, 101-102, and Diamond muffed its offensive play, Palero had a chance to grab the driver's seat. But he missed both charities and later committed a traveling violation in mid-court giving possession back to Diamond.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Three Diamond Auto Care players chase Quichocho Law Office's Bonbon Cadagat, who attempts to recover the loose ball during their game in the Budweiser caging Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

A jump hook by Brendo Talania gave Diamond more breathing space, 104-101, with 27.8 seconds remaining on the clock.

The next few plays saw Quichocho getting several chances to cut the lead or even take the upperhand. But Palero, who had a decent job from the foul line in the first three quarters, going 6-for-8, and Barbo only split their charities.

Talania also had problems with his free throw shooting, making only one charity that gave Diamond a two-point lead, 105-103, with 12.2 seconds left in the game.

After Talania canned his second free throw, Quichocho quickly attacked the basket, with Sonny Lerio driving to the right baseline, missing the shot, but drawing a foul from Elmer Esdrelon.

Again, poor free throw shooting spelled the doom for Quichocho, as Lerio, who is usually a reliable free throw shooter, split his charities.

Quichocho was forced to give up a foul in the next play to stop the clock, and Pando Muleta gave Diamond insurance baskets, drilling two free throws, with 4.3 left on the clock.

Bonbon Cadagat had a chance to tie the game, when he pulled up for a triple from mid-court, but muffed the desperation trey, as the final buzzer sounded.

Diamond now has a 2-4 record, avenging its first round loss to Quichocho (85-93).

In the second game, the CNMI Nationals duplicated their first round win over the Ol'Aces with a come-from-behind 87-81 triumph.

The CNMI Nationals rallied from a 10-point deficit in the second half. Jericho Cruz led the Nationals' recovery, tallying a game-high 35 points.

First Game

Diamond 107 – Esdrelon 31, Muleta 17, Talania 14, Joyner 14, Peredo 11, Berline 9, Dayrit 8, Marasigan 2, Camacho 1.

Quichocho Law Office 104 – Palero 23, Cadagat 21, Barbo 16, Lerio 12, Itaas 7, Moises 6, Demapan 6, Tagle 4, Pantaleon 2, Umali 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-29, 55-50, 82-73, 107-104.

Second Game

CNMI Nationals 87 – Cruz 35, Rabauliman 12, Iguel 10, Tumaquip 10, Johnson 9, Camacho 4, Tarkong 4, White 2, Moses 1.

Ol'Aces 81 – Pelisamen 25, Lizama 20, Rangamar 8, P. Camacho 8, Iginoef 8, White 6, Tudela 5, Olaitiman 3.

Scoring by quarters: 12-20, 31-41, 58-56, 87-81.

MMC to host RGA February Ace

The Marianas Country Club in Marpi will host Refaluwasch Golf Association's February Ace of the Month Tournament tomorrow, Feb. 28.

Check in time is 11am with tee off set an hour later at 12pm at the Marpi golf course.

Score to beat is the net 66 carded by Tars Olopai in RGA's monthly qualifier two weekends ago.

In the Feb. 14 qualifier at the Kingfisher Golf Links, the nine-handicap Olopai fired a 36 in the front and a 39 in the back for a gross of 75.

Jesse Seman (net 69) and Louis Tilipao (72) completed the Top 3, while three other RGA members finished tied at fourth to sixth places with identical 74s.

In the closest to the pin competition, Asterio Tawanpiy was without peer in hole No. 6, while Olopai was the best in hole No. 15.

A total of 22 golfers took part in the February qualifier.

In related news, RGA tournament coordinator Jess Wabol is encouraging current and past members to pay the club's annual membership fee, which will remain at $25 because of the current economic crisis.

For more information about RGA's February Ace of the Month tourney and the rest of its tournaments for 2009, contact president Jordan Kosam at 483-4506 or Wabol at 288-1129. ***(PR)***

2nd Enticer set for this Sunday

Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation's second Enticer for the year will be held this Sunday, March 1, at Paupau Beach.

Enticer races are tune-up events for local triathletes preparing for the XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon this coming April.

The first of a series of enticer events was held last Feb. 8 with Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel winning the short course and Lewie Tenorio topping the long course.

Tenorio organized the first Enticer, while triathlon regulars Mieko Carey and Mamiko Oshima-Berger will be organizing Sunday's race.

Registration will start at 6:30am, while the race will begin at 7am.

The short course will cover 500m for the swim from the Paupau Beach shore to the buoy and back, six miles for the bike from the Paupau Beach parking lot to Banzai Cliff Memorial Park and back, and three miles for the run from the Paupau Beach parking lot to near the entrance of the Marianas Resort and Spa and back.

For the long course, the competitors must simply repeat the swim-bike-run course.

Fins and snorkels are allowed for the swim. Teams or groups of three are also allowed to take part in the race.

Organizers also encouraged all entrants to bring their own stopwatch since there will be a variety of courses.

Entry fee will be $5 for NMITF members and $10 for non-members. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

DOLPHINS

From Page 36

Asked how the absence of Cruz and Rabauliman, who averaged in double figures in scoring for MHS, will affect the Dolphins' chances in the title match, co-coach Nick Gross said they had already prepared for this situation last week.

"We've been preparing for the finals since last week without them and hopefully these preparations will be enough to give Kagman a good game in the finals," Gross said.

"We will be playing a disciplined basketball. We will be playing with pride and heart," Gross added.

NMASA

From Page 36

Nationals defeated Palau and Papua New Guinea en route to a sixth place finish in the eight-team Oceania tournament.

"This award was sort of a vindication for me, that I deserved a spot on the All-Star team," Cruz said.

"It would have been great had I was selected for the All-Stars, as it will would have given me more opportunity to play against top youth players in Australia. But I have to move on now and forget that disappointment, and continue playing hard," added Cruz, who will be playing for the CNMI Nationals in the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament in June here.

Besides playing for the Nationals, Cruz is also hoping to suit up for a college team in the Philippines. He is on his last year at Marianas High School and is planning to try out for various colleges in Manila.

Cruz also dreams of making it to a pro league in the Philippines, where he was born.

"It is every basketball player's dream to make it to the pro league," said Cruz, who thanked coaches Jose Tumaquip, Rufino Aguon, and Elias Rangamar for honing his basketball skills.

DALHAUSER

From Page 36

will conduct the Kids' Marianas Cup.

Dalhauser will also showcase his talents with Paul Baxter in the highly anticipated exhibition match against Shimpei Aoiki and Yasuo Nakaya. Korean players will also join this special side event on March 6 beginning at 5pm.

PIC's director of sales and marketing Kanae Quinn said the exhibition matches would be open to the public.

The 29-year-old Dalhauser teamed up with Todd Rogers to power the U.S. to a gold medal win over the tandem of Fabio Magahaes and Marcio Araujo of Brazil in Beijing.

The Americans prevailed in the deciding third set, 15-4.

Dalhausser, a 6'9" behemoth, was nicknamed "The Beijing Beast" after his successful stint in the Summer Games, where he earned the MVP award.

He and Rogers became the first U.S. Men's team to win a world title and they've won four of the seven international tournaments they've played in 2008. Dalhausser enjoyed a breakout year with Rogers in 2006, winning eight AVP Tour events and a FIVB event in Austria.

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association thanks all the sponsors for contributing to this worthwhile, international event. Sponsors include Aon Insurance, Aqua Resort Club, Chong's Corporation, Delta Management Corporation, Glooay Mai Thai Spa, Gregg Elliott Artworks, Hertz, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Island Apparel, IT&E, KSPN2, LISS, Marianas Eye Institute, Mariana Resort & Spa, Marianas Trekking, Marianas Visitors Authority, Microl Corp., No Ka Oi, Northwest Airlines, Pacific Development, Inc., Pacific Eagle Enterprises, PIC Guam, PIC Saipan, Pacific Trading, Co., Saipan Grand Hotel, Seafix Inc., Shell Marianas, Star Sands Plaza, Stars & Stripes, Law Offices of Stephen J. Nutting, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Topnotch, Traders Insurance, Triple J Wholesale, and WDI Saipan (Tony Roma's & Capricciosa's).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	46	12	.793	–
Philadelphia	28	28	.500	17
New Jersey	26	32	.448	20
New York	24	33	.421	21 1/2
Toronto	23	36	.390	23 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	44	11	.800	–
Detroit	27	29	.482	17 1/2
Milwaukee	28	32	.467	18 1/2
Chicago	26	32	.448	19 1/2
Indiana	25	35	.417	21 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	42	15	.737	–
Atlanta	32	25	.561	10
Miami	30	26	.536	11 1/2
Charlotte	23	35	.397	19 1/2
Washington	13	44	.228	29

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	39	17	.696	–
Houston	36	21	.632	3 1/2
New Orleans	34	22	.607	5
Dallas	34	23	.596	5 1/2
Memphis	15	42	.263	24 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	38	20	.655	–
Portland	35	22	.614	2 1/2
Utah	35	23	.603	3
Minnesota	18	39	.316	19 1/2
Oklahoma City	13	44	.228	24 1/2

Pacific Division

LA Lakers	47	10	.825	–
Phoenix	32	24	.571	14 1/2
Golden State	20	37	.351	27
LA Clippers	14	43	.246	33
Sacramento	12	47	.203	36

Yesterday's Games

San Antonio 99, Portland 84
Denver 110, Atlanta 109
LA Clippers 93, Boston 91
New Jersey 111, Chicago 99
Philadelphia 106, Washington 98
Indiana 104, Memphis 99
Orlando 114, New York 109
New Orleans 90, Detroit 87
Dallas 116, Milwaukee 96
Utah 120, Minnesota 103
Charlotte 98, Sacramento 91

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Men's

DCCA	16	0
Freedom Air	11	3
CPA	10	2
Beach Boys	10	3
No Zone	10	4
Docomo	10	4
Joeten Motor Jets	10	4
Legislature	10	5
P&S	6	6
CRM/DEQ	6	7
POI	6	7
DLNR	6	8
CHC	4	9
PSS	4	9
PIC	3	9
CUC	3	9
Law & Order	3	10
Customs	4	10
Mayors	2	12
Hopwood	0	13

Women

NMC	9	2
CUC	5	4
Finance	5	4
DCCA	5	6
CHC	1	9

BUDWEISER CAGING STANDINGS

CNMI Nationals	6	1
IT& E	5	2
Ol'Aces	5	3
Quichocho Law Office	3	4
Docomo	2	4
Diamond Auto Fixers	2	4
Runnin' Rebels	1	6

BANMI referees cap clinic on Tinian

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Arnold Mesa and Noel Delos Santos of the BANMI Referees Association concluded a two-part clinic at the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium, Monday.

The clinic, which started on Feb. 16, discussed preventions of violations and injuries in basketball games.

Six teams playing in the 2009 Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Invitational Basketball League were invited to the clinic.

Mesa and Delos Santos listed 25 things to remember to prevent violations and injuries and explained the first 12 in the first part of the clinic.

The list included the causes of injuries, traveling violations, deflection violations, 3-second violation, 8-second violation, 5-second violation, double dribble violation, pushing foul violation, backcourt violation, over the man violation, elbow and tripping violations, and blocking foul violation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Referees Arnold Mesa, kneeling left, and Noel Delos Santos, standing right, pose with Tinian players after a clinic on prevention of injuries and violations last week at the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium.

Mesa said it is important that players learned these violations from the perspective of referees, so complains and disruptions in games could be lessened.

"At the clinic, we tell them why we called the violation, so they will have a clear idea on how to conduct themselves once they are on the court. During actual games, when we call violations, referees don't have much time to explain," Mesa said.

The second and last part of the clinic focused on causes of technical foul violations, offensive foul, ejection, flagrant fouls, warning situations escalate to a technical foul, pick/screen violations, transition blocking foul (you can't stop a river flow), double team/trapping violations, post up players' offensive and defensive violations, and airborne shooters defensive or offensive violations.

Mesa and Delos Santos thanked Tinian Dynasty general manager Tom Liu, marketing and promotions coordinator Kiri Jackson, Tinian coach George Que, and league coordinator Noel Sabordo for making the clinic possible.

NWA to waive bike fees for XTERRA Saipan athletes

Northwest Airlines is throwing its support to the upcoming 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon by agreeing to waive the bike fees for participants who would be boarding from Nagoya and Narita, Japan as well as on the trip from Saipan to the U.S. mainland.

Race director Bill Sakovich said the waiver would be applied for the trip from Japan to Saipan and back. But this would be applied only for the return trip from Saipan to the U.S., provided they would be on a NWA flight.

The XTERRA Saipan Championship will be held on April 18 and the Tagaman is set a week later on April 25.

Sakovich said that participating athletes who want to take advantage of this offer must book as soon as possible and present their itineraries by April 4 to the organizers, who will then arrange it with NWA.

Sakovich also gave an update on what to expect on this year's event saying that Taro Shirato of Japan and Mike Vine of Canada will be traveling to Saipan together.

The duo is currently at a University Training Camp to prepare for the Crown Jewel of the XTERRA Tour.

Sakovich is also reminding that fees would be discounted for early registrants with the last price break set March 1.

He said that since it would be the 20th edition of the Tagaman, there would be a 20 percent discount for all returnees.

In addition, a 10 percent discount would be given for early entries for both events. Both discounts will be given upon arrival on Saipan.

Sakovich said that Japan's *Tarzan* magazine will be sending a writer to cover the event, and some triathletes from the U.S. mainland will do an article for *West Coast Competitor* magazine.

Participants are encouraged to bring any bike parts they may feel necessary because they may not be available on Saipan. Those who are on their way to Guam may buy them there.

"Pacific Islands Club, the host hotel, is doing everything it can to assist our event and being a major sponsor with preferred rates, we encourage you to book your reservations directly with PIC, for family and friends," Sakovich advised.

One of the professionals coming in for the first time would be Shonny Vanlandingham, a premier biker from the U.S.

Defending champions Julie Diebens and Andrew Noble are also entered along with three-time XTERRA Saipan Championship winner Renata Bucher.

Others on the list are Mieko Carey (Saipan), Jim McConnell and Sam Gardner (England), Ulli Katzer, Yu Hoon Park and Ka On Cho (Korea), Alan Collinson (Australia), and Christopher Flanagan (Japan).

Cash prizes are up to $20,000 for Tagaman and $15,000 for XTERRA Saipan Championship. There are Saipan customized medals for first to third place age group winners.

Side events include XTERRA Trail Run on April 17 and the Kids Bike Race, SportsFest activities (GoKart Races, Hash Run, golf, and open water WWII Tank swims in the lagoon) during the week, and the Taga Kids Triathlon on April 25. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mieko Carey, seen here in a file photo from last year's XTERRA Japan, will be one of the local participants in the upcoming 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

San Jose Church golf tourney on March 14

The Inaugural San Jose Church Fundraising Golf Tournament will be held on March 14 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Coordinator Manny Mangarero said they are staging the tournament to raise funds for the much needed repairs of the San Jose Church. Tee time is set at 7:30am with check in time an hour earlier at 6:30pm.

Entry fee is $100 and will give participants a chance to vie for the top prizes in two divisions—low gross and low net double peoria.

Low gross will have both men's and women's categories. First place nets $300, second $200, and third $100.

The low net double peoria is co-ed and will award $300 for first place, $250 for second, and $150 for third.

Organizers will also set up closest to the pin competitions in holes No. 8, 12, and 15. Five prizes will also be up for grabs in skills challenge in hole No. 6.

Mangarero added that the San Jose Church Fundraising Golf Tournament will feature a hole-in-one challenge with still an undisclosed prize.

The awards banquet for the tournament will be held immediately after the competition at the grounds of Kingfisher Golf Links. Mangarero said those paying via check should make them payable to San Jose Parish.

For more information, call Mangarero at 235-2609 or 878-4499, Rev. Fr. Jesse Reyes at 234-6991 or 483-PALE, Jess Wabol at 233-3673, or Jerry Ayuyu at 286-1400. ***(PR)***

Freedom Air seizes solo second

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Freedom Air and Customs fashioned out contrasting victories against their respective rivals in the two make-up games of the 2009 Budweiser Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League on Tuesday at the Capital Hill Ball Park.

Freedom Air needed only five and a half innings in its easy 14-1 victory against the league's favorite whipping boys from Hopwood to seize solo second place with an 11-3 win-loss record behind pacesetting DCCA (16-0).

The loss was Hopwood's 13th in as many games.

Freedom Air batters issued 11 of their 17 hits right at the bottom of the first inning where they went 14 times at bat and scored 11 runs, including the first of two home runs by first baseman Roy Celis.

Celis also delivered another homer in the fourth, while pitcher Roque Camacho made one earlier in the second.

Freedom Air finished with a total of 13 RBIs, four of them from Celis.

Centerfielder Alex Sablan scored the lone run for Hopwood at the top of fourth on a RBI single by leftfielder John Pialur.

Customs 21, CHC 20

In an interesting match up, Customs rallied past Commonwealth Health Center and won in the extra inning, 21-20.

Customs erased a 7-13 deficit after six full innings, as it exploded with nine runs at the top of seventh for a 16-13 lead.

CHC forced the game into extra inning with three runs at the bottom seventh.

Customs then proved steadier as five of its players reached home plate at the top of eighth, while CHC managed only four in the same frame.

Customs pitcher J.J. Salas finished the game when he forced CHC's Vince Rabauliman to fly out to the waiting Ton Camacho on leftfield.

Customs piled up a total of 21 RBIs, three from Ton Iguel and Jason Lizama, two each from Ton Camacho, Henry Utulumar, J.P. Sablan, Jack Cepeda, Dave Ada, and Archie Kaipat, and one each from Ray Renguul, J.J. Salas, and Rod Aldan.

John Duenas and Tom Diaz led CHC's offense with four RBIs each.

Diaz hit 4-for-5, including three runs, two doubles, and one triple. Duenas, meanwhile, was 3-for-5 and joined six other teammates with two runs scored.

A triumphant return for Tiger at Match Play

Eight months later, Tiger Woods looked as though he had never been away. Woods made a triumphant return to golf Wednesday in the Accenture Match Play Championship .

32

Saipan Tribune
Sports

BANMI referees cap clinic on Tinian

Arnold Mesa and Noel De-los Santos of the BANMI Referees Association concluded a two-part clinic at the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium, Monday.

35

Dolphins to play in finals minus Cruz, Rabauliman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A depleted Marianas High School crew will be facing Kagman High School in the championship match in the boys varsity division of the 2008-2009 MISO Basketball League tonight at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Dolphins will try to regain the title they lost to Saipan Southern High School last season without key players Jericho Cruz and Marvin Rabauliman, who were booted out of the team.

MHS coach Mark McDonald, in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, confirmed Cruz and Rabauliman were off the team. He declined to elaborate why the two players were kicked off the squad, but in the past, Rabauliman and Cruz were given disciplinary actions for violating team rules.

Marvin Rabauliman, right, along with Jericho Cruz (not in the picture), are off the Dolphins basketball team, which will be playing Kagman in tonight's MISO caging finals at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

In the first game of the season, Cruz and Rabauliman were benched in the first half of their game against Southern for failure to attend practice sessions.

Before their last assignment in the regular season, Rabauliman was suspended for one game and missed the Dolphins' second meeting with the Rays.

Cruz, in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune,* said he was told he was off the team last week. He last played for the Dolphins on Feb. 11 when MHS pulled off an 83-75 overtime win over the Ayuyus.

Cruz was nursing a flu that day and started playing only in the fourth quarter. He scored six of the Dolphins' 12 points in overtime to lift MHS to the win.

The member of the CNMI Nationals said he was sick for four days on the week MHS played Kagman.

"I had a doctor's slip showing I am sick and not skipping class when coach (McDonald's) saw me in Capital Hill," Cruz said.

Rabauliman, who is Cruz's teammate in the CNMI Nationals, could not be reached to comment on his exclusion on the Dolphins' roster.

See DOLPHINS on Page 34

NMASA nod vindication for Jericho

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Third of a six-part series

Youth cager Jericho Cruz was snubbed for the Oceania All-Star Team last year, but not by the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, which named him the 2008 Male Student Athlete of the Year last week.

"It feels great to be recognized for your efforts, for the good things you have done for your teammates and your team," Cruz said.

Jericho Cruz holds the 2008 Male Student Athlete of the Year plum he received during the 2008 NMASA Annual Awards Banquet last week at the Seaside Hall of Saipan Grand Hotel.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Cruz was chosen as top male student athlete for 2008 after suiting up for the CNMI Junior Nationals, who played in the 2008 Oceania Youth Tournament in Guam, and for his outstanding performance in various leagues on Saipan.

In the Oceania caging, Cruz led the tournament in scoring in the round-robin play, as he averaged 23 points per game. He also posted impressive numbers in assists and rebounds departments.

But it seemed these figures were not enough to convince judges to include Cruz in the lineup for the Oceania All-Star Team, which will be playing in a tournament in Australia this year.

"I was really disappointed not to make the team. I felt I played better than those players from Palau and Papua New Guinea who were chosen for the All-Stars," said Cruz, who also led the Junior Nationals to a title win in the Rotary caging last year.

Cruz and the CNMI Junior

See NMASA on Page 34

Dalhauser to share Olympic experience with Saipan kids

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Phil Dalhauser will not only come to play again in the Marianas Cup, but he will also share to kids on Saipan his fruitful stint in Beijing, where he won the Olympic gold medal for beach volleyball.

Along with other professional players who will be arriving next week for one of Saipan's biggest annual international sports events, Dalhauser will be visiting various schools to conduct a beach volleyball clinic that would give students the opportunity to exchange ideas.

Dalhauser

The 17th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival will be held March 6-8 at the Pacific Islands Club.

But before the start of the tournament, Dalhauser and the other pros from the U.S. mainland, Japan, and Korea will be hosting a free kids' clinic at the PIC volleyball court on March 5 starting at 3pm.

Then on March 15, the pros

See DALHAUSER on Page 34

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Notes from leftfield

After a breakfast of two eggs over easy on top of Eggo waffles smothered in Log Cabin syrup and sweet yellow finger bananas chased down by two cups of joe laced with French vanilla cream, I offer the following crumbs.

Alex Rodriquez has the looks but not the talent to be a television soap opera star. His acting is terrible. But then, most actors are lousy baseball players.

For staying in jail for a year for not ratting out B*nds and facing even longer time, former trainer Greg Anderson's refusal to testify continues to amaze. I wonder what motivates him to sacrifice like that, whether it's pure principle of character and integrity or if he will be taken care of later or both or neither. Honestly, I would have squealed instead of sitting in the pen like him, and not the bullpen either. I mean the clink.

Any of the Top 20 college basketball teams could win the championship. No favorites this year, as it's wide open as any in recent memory. All it takes is a six-game win streak. I'm taking Pittsburgh for no other reason than it sounds good. Hey, it worked in football.

Ken Griffey Jr. going back to Seattle is the Major League feel good story of 2009.

Tiger Woods coming back to the PGA tour is another feel good story.

Much has been made of the sportsmanship from the high school basketball team that intentionally missed two free throws after a technical foul was called on a player, whose mother had died earlier in the day, for entering the game. He had not been listed on the score sheet at the start of the game. Officials made the right call; coach's fault for not including his name. In light of the circumstances, penalizing the team seems cruel. That someone deliberately missed the free throws as a gesture of sportsmanship to me is nice but the fact that this became a national story boggles my mind. Is that how rare sportsmanship has become? Is the media that desperate for a feel good story?

Spring training about to start and Manny Ramirez is not on a team. Unbelievable sign of weird times. Apparently the Los Angeles Dodgers are in bidding war against …. themselves?!?

Anyone hear how Roger Clemens is doing? Miguel Tejada faces jail time for lying to Congress. If Clemens did the same, why wouldn't he get time too? Maybe they could all room with Greg Anderson.

Let's suspend reason for awhile and believe Clemens told the truth and never used performance enhancing drugs, and that he was a saint among so many sinners. Now that the truth is coming out about other players, that would make the Rocket even greater by comparison, a natural wonder boy. Now back to reality.

Does $10,000 mean much to you? That's how much Santonio Holmes has to cough up for his "excessive celebration" following his Super Bowl-winning catch. I simply don't understand how anyone can celebrate too much after the accomplishment of a lifetime. How come there are no fines for "not enough celebration"?

Does $10 million mean much to you? That's possibly how much Andre Smith cost himself by leaving the NFL combine before working out. The offensive tackle was projected to be one the Top 5 players in this year's draft but his stock is dropping faster than, huh well, the stock market.

That would buy a lot of breakfasts but none of them better than eggs, waffles, and homegrown bananas.